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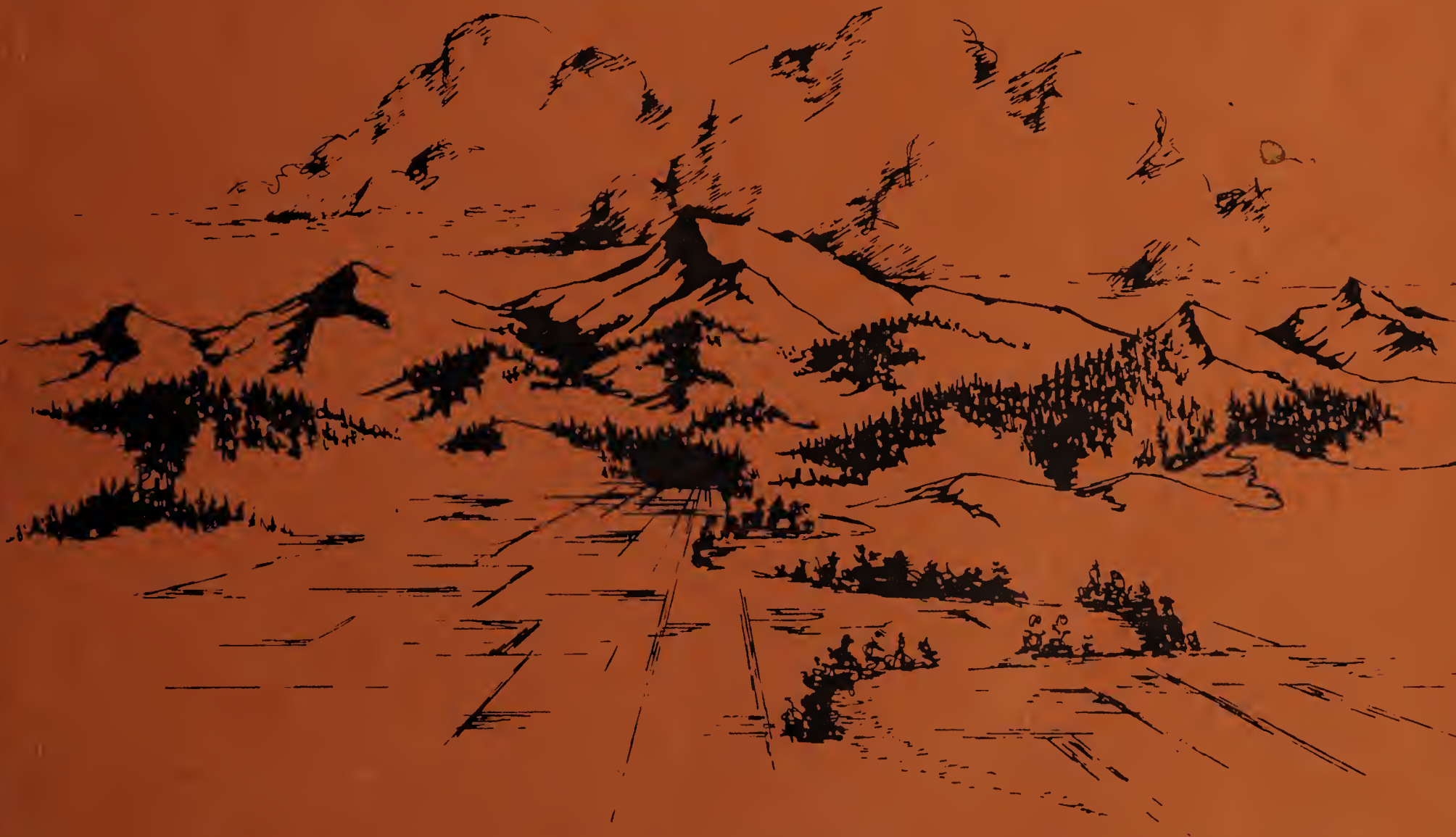
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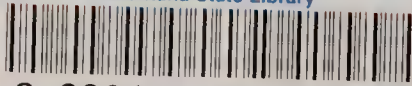
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Butte, Montana



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1976 ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY IN THE AUGUSTA/SUN RIVER AREA
OF THE EAST SLOPE PLANNING UNIT, LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY

William Michael Cobb
September, 1976

A Western Interstate Commission for
Higher Education (WICHE) Project
sponsored by the Butte District
Office of the Bureau of Land Management

APR 4 - 1984

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The archaeological survey project reported herein was organized by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, (WICHE), through the Butte District Office of the Bureau of Land Management. Both of these organizations receive my gratitude for making this summer project possible. They supplied the project its needed materials.

Darrell L. McDaniel, Outdoor Recreation Planner of the Bureau of Land Management at Butte, served as the supervisor of this project. His help in orienting me with the area, and his time involved in editing this report are both deeply appreciated. Blaine Miller, an archaeologist of the BLM, receives my thanks for his help in organizing this report. Members of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Montana also helped me with various aspects of this report.

The local landowners and members of the Augusta community were very helpful in providing information to the archaeology record. Special thanks is given to Bud Bisnett, who should be considered an amateur archaeologist. He noted the area where the artifacts he collected came from, and thus provided reliable information to this project.

Peter, Steve, Stretch, Peggy, Cedar, Fred, Jim, Janice, and above all my parents, gave me the inspiration needed in completing this project. Nonetheless, I will assume responsibility for any mistakes that appear in this report.



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INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 1976, from June 18 to August 11, I had the opportunity of conducting an archaeology survey in the East Slope Planning Unit, near August, Montana. (See Map #1 for location). The East Slope Planning Unit includes both private and public lands. Archaeology in this area is part of the Northwestern Plains tradition (Mulloy 1958).

The project was sponsored by the District office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), at Butte, Montana, through the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

The objective of the project was to conduct an intensive on-foot inventory of archaeology resources in the area. The report is the result of this inventory. It includes the following: a description of the environment, a cultural chronology of the region, notes on the research and goals of this survey, a description of this summer's inventoried resources, and concluding and interpretive remarks.

This report is intended to provide information to the archaeology profession and to the Bureau of Land Management.

ENVIRONMENT

The area is on the eastern edge of an overthrust belt of the Northern Rocky Mountains Province. The elevation at the thrust rises at extremes of 5600 feet to 8200 feet in less than a mile. Accessibility through this belt is possible by the breaks that occur along it. These passes also follow major drainage systems in the mountains. They suggest possible routes that aboriginal peoples used to get at the available resources in the mountains and on the upland plains. Aside from the overthrust belt, this area displays glacial activities from the advent of the Continental Ice Cap. The topography appears to fit the description Mulloy offers of the Missouri Plateau (Mulloy, 1958:10).

The surface of the Missouri Plateau must be thought of as under four different names: (1) broadly terraced river valleys, (2) interstream uplands imperfectly peneplained and locally dissected into badlands, (3) high interstream areas widely alluviated by coalescing alluvial fans or flood plains, (4) glacial areas of the first three types.

The Sun River is the major river in the area. Its source provides a pass through the mountains to the western region of Montana (photo 1). The river was the major erosive factor at the time I was there (photo 2). Its channel through the region at times is 100 feet below the land that borders it. Access to the river is easiest by the gentle sloping river terraces or the shallow drainages that flow into the Sun River. These terraces offer concealment and protection from the wind. Thus, they might have been used as campsites by bison hunters (Malouf & Conners, 1962). The soil is much richer, and it supports more vegetation than on the upland plains. This might be expected because of the availability of water and deposits of sediments.

Map #1



The shaded block is the approximate size of the East Slope Planning Unit.



This picture is looking west. The upland plains is shown in the foreground and parts of the overthrust belt are in the background. Access through the belt is in the center where there is a "V" shape. This is also where the Sun River flows out of the mountains.

Pine trees are located along the Sun River and in the mountainous regions, but they are seldom found on the open wind-blown upland plains, where the soil is a dry, crusty, gravelly, mixture. The vegetation is composed of local grasses intermingled with prickly pear cactus. This might support a hypothesis that early aboriginal people stayed closer to water sources until they obtained a more efficient means of travel, such as the horse. Haberman states (Haberman, 1973:95):

The increased mobility afforded by the horse probably had a great modifying influence on the previous dog/human pedestrian nomadism both in terms of trans-human pattern and perhaps even in settlement patterns within ecological zones dependent on relatively minor variation in topography.



The picture is looking north, showing a large mass of land being eroded by the Sun River. The river is to the left of the picture about sixty feet below the observable surface.

Elaborating on this point further, more food resources were found in the mountainous and the river regions than on the upland plains. Chokecherries and sarvest berries were observed in these two regions. The animal resources in these two regions consist of the following: grizzly bear, black bear, elk,

mule deer, white-tail deer, mountain sheep, mountain goat, upland game birds, waterfowl, rabbits and rodents. The antelope is the major big game animal on the upland plains. Wherever there are ponds on the upland plains, waterfowl will be observed also. Extinct animals include the bison and mammoth. Butch Allen exhibited three bison skulls which were found along Willow Creek in 1976. Bud Bisnett, an amateur archaeologist in Augusta, reported that Mrs. Neal, a rancher, has a mammoth tusk in her possession. Bert Goodman, game ranger of the Sun River Game Preserve, sent a mammoth scapula to the Anthropology Department at the University of Montana, Missoula.

Grazing land for cattle may be terribly over-grazed if not held in check, especially on the upland plains. The land might have suffered similar pressures from the bison which had inhabited this area.

The food resources are numerous in the East Slope Planning Unit. Aboriginal people may have been utilizing different regions seasonally or simultaneously.

The climate is a major factor in the productivity of the land. Winter temperatures have been recorded at -48 degrees Fahrenheit. Winter blizzards have added to substantial calf losses on the cattle ranches. Thus, winter in the area is characterized as being cold and harsh. Spring usually brings rain, and at times causes extensive flooding. This was witnessed 1962, 1964, and 1975 (Photo #2). Summer has the characteristics of being hot and dry, with temperatures in the 90's.

Fall appears to be cold and windy. The first snowfall may appear as early as October on the upland plains. The wind is a major factor also, because it tends to blow during the entire calendar year. It usually blows from the southwest to the northeast. This suggests that the aboriginal people may have utilized wind protected areas for campsites, such as the river terraces.

On the other hand, a windblown surface, such as on the upland plains, may have been better suited for camping during times of heavy snowfall.

The Paleoclimate may include a major drought postulated by Antevs (1955: 317). The drought would have been around 5,000 to 7,000 years ago, since there appears to be a human hiatus during this time span on the Northwest Plains. The drought would have affected the survey area. Yet not everybody is convinced that there was such a drought. A Pollen Analyses in Alberta supported no evidence of a large climatic fluctuation during the last 9,000 or 10,000 years (Wormington & Forbis, 1965:121).

CULTURAL CHRONOLOGY OF THE EAST SLOPE PLANNING UNIT

This report will use the chronology established by Mulloy for the Northwestern Plains (Mulloy, 1958:208). The periods described are as follows: EARLY PREHISTORIC PERIOD, beginning about 10 or 11,000 B.C. and terminating approximately 4,000 B.C.; MIDDLE PREHISTORIC PERIOD is divided into early (4,000 B.C. to 1 A.D.) and late (1 A.D. to 500 A.D.) sequence; LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD, beginning around 500 A.D. and ending approximately at 1800 A.D.; HISTORIC PERIOD, beginning after 1800 A.D.

Prior recording of sites around this area are not very numerous. Some recorded sites on file in the Statewide Archaeology Survey Archives at the University of Montana, Missoula, will be discussed. Sites 24TT1 and 24TT2 are along the Gibson Reservoir. Site 24TT1 revealed chipping material on the surface. Site 24TT2 consists of pictographs. Farther east of the reservoir along the Sun River, sites 24TT1009 and 24TT1010 are recorded. Both consist of pictographs. Pictographs usually appear most frequently on heavily traveled routes (F. W. Sharrock, personal communication, 1976). Site 24LC1007, the Risly Bison Kill, is near the southeastern border of the survey area. This site has been test excavated by George Knight and J. D. Keyser. Side notched points were found. No drive lanes were found, but the topography suggests a natural drive lane. Bud Bisnett displayed his collection of projectile points that he has recovered from this site (Photo 3). They all resemble a variety of side-notched points. Site 24TT1014 is about two miles east of the extreme southeastern border of the survey area. A group of stone circles are at this site. All six sites will be of importance when working with the cultural chronology of the area.



Photo 3

These are points from the Risley Bison Kill that Bud Bisnett has collected.

Remains attributable to the EARLY PREHISTORIC PERIOD are relatively scarce in northern Montana. Taylor, (1961), discusses early man evidence found near Great Falls, which is sixty miles east of the survey area, and Shumate's work in north central Montana includes examples of Clovis, Folsom, Midland, Plainview, Hellgap, Angostura, Jimmy Allen, Agate Basin, Scottsbluff, and Eden projectile points, which are characteristic of the EARLY PREHISTORIC PERIOD. These projectile points have mostly come from blowouts which also appears to be the case in similar areas of southern Alberta, Canada. (Shumate, 1965:17).

No sites of this period were found, but Bud Bisnett has a point in his collection that resembles a Clovis point (Photo 4). The area where he reportedly discovered it will be discussed in the section on 'site leads'.

EARLY MIDDLE PREHISTORIC PERIOD is represented by points with the characteristics of "lancelote points with concave or convex bases" (Hanna and Duncan types), (Mulloy, 1958:16). LATE MIDDLE PREHISTORIC PERIOD points are represented by a variety of corner notched points.

Shumate's collection displays types of points known as the Mckean, Duncan, and Hanna. The MIDDLE PREHISTORIC PERIOD is marked by a more extensive occupation of the northern plains by expanding human populations. This region (northern Montana) became a favored habitat for groups. This is indicated by the development of Oxbow, Pelican Lake, Thunder Creek, Besant, and Long Creek "cultures" (Davis, 1968:47).

Bud Bisnett does have points in his collection that resemble the Mckean, Duncan, Hanna, Pelican Lake, and Besant points (Photo 4). They are discussed in the section on 'site leads'. He states they were found in and around the survey area.

The extent of the hunter's dependence on flora as a dietary supplement cannot be evaluated accurately in the MIDDLE PREHISTORIC PERIOD nor in the EARLY PREHISTORIC PERIOD (Davis, 1968). Davis (1968:47) states:

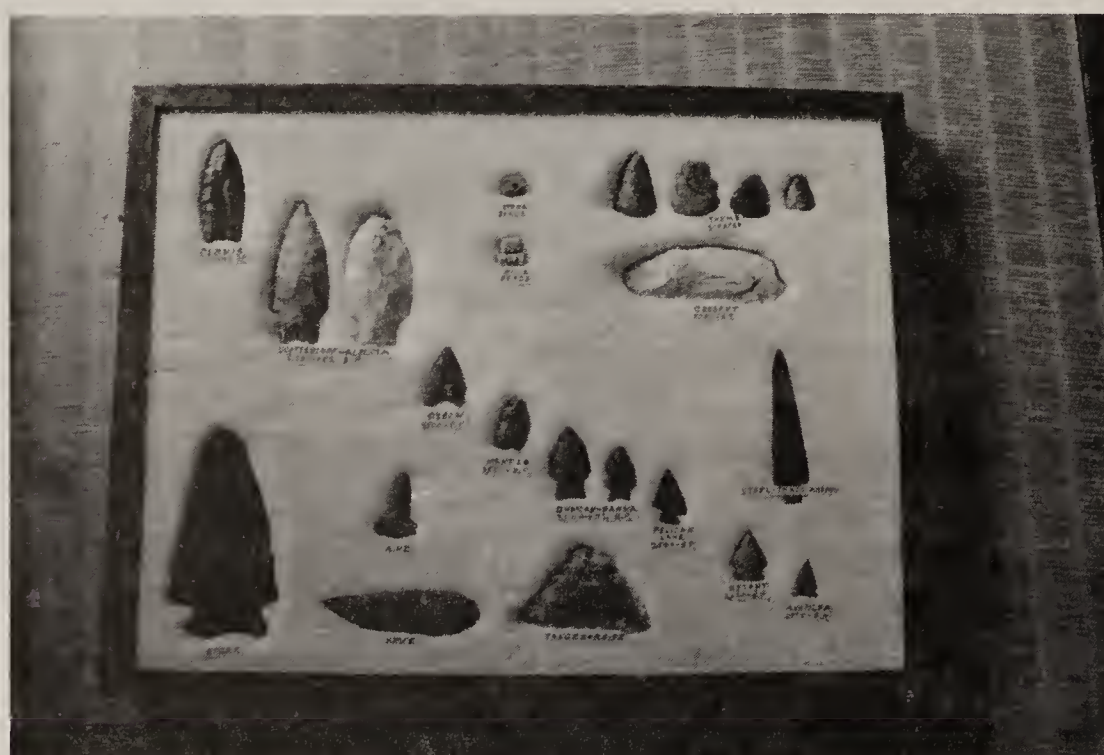
There is no accumulated evidence that supports the view that the EARLY and MIDDLE PREHISTORIC PERIODS had a subsistence pattern that differed significantly in northern Montana.

Projectile points from the LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD include small, triangular points without notches and small side notch points with flat or concave bases (Mulloy, 1958:163). The Avonlea point is of this period. In northern and central Montana, ten Avonlea components have been found (Davis, 1966:48).

As far as has been determined, no LATE PREHISTORIC points have been reported in the survey area. Bud Bisnett does have a projectile point that resembles an Avonlea point that he found in 1969 (Photo 4). He reports that

the projectile point came from Dry Creek, six miles east of Augusta. Also, the Risly Bison Kill, 24LC1007, has been suggested to have been occupied during the LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD. However, they could possibly be older or earlier. This has not been determined because of lack of diagnostic artifacts.

Photo 4



From left to right the names of the points in the diagonal are: Clovis, Scottsbluff, Alberta, Oxbow, McKean, Duncan, Hanna, Pelican Lake, Besant, Avonlea. A possible spear point is in the lower left hand corner. A metal projectile point is in the center of the right hand side of the picture. They did not all come from the survey area.

In northern Montana there are Buffalo Kill sites that are older than the Risly Bison Kill. The Carter Ferry Buffalo Kill, which is south of the survey area, dates back to 2000 B.P.¹ (Shumate, 1967:6). This site used the natural terrain to drive buffalo into a pound, where they were killed.

¹B. P. stands for Before Present.

Conners (1962) gives a good description of a Bison Kill. A typical buffalo jump consists of at least five parts. First, a grazing area where the animals are found. Second, there are two more lines of small piles of rock on the prairie, called drive lanes. The lines are generally in the shape of a "V", which almost but do not quite converge at the top of a cliff or a cut bank. The piles of rock in each lane are normally from five to ten yards apart. Some of the rock piles exceed a foot in height, but they often do not rise above the level of the ground. The rock lines vary from a few hundred yards to miles in length, while the cliff height will vary from 15 to 250 feet or more. The cliff is the third part of the Bison Kill. Excavations reveal the fourth component, which is at the base of the cliff. This part reveals the bones of the slaughtered animals. Some writers mention that brush, logs, or rock pens were used to enclose bison that survived the fall. Herds of bison were driven between the converging lines of rock piles toward the cliff. As they approached the cliff, they were made to stampede and if the operation was successful, the herd plunged over the cliff, killing or crippling the animals. The fifth part of the site is the campground of the people, which is found near the cliff. The location of the campsite in a coulee bottom provided natural concealment from the herds of bison, which normally avoid an open settlement (Forbis, 1962). Forbis also mentioned that in the coulee, its occupants had protection from the harshness of the winter, which was the time when buffalo jumps were customarily relied upon.

Buffalo jumps appear to have lasted up to the advent of the horse.

Shumate (1967:12) reports:

The appearance of the horse in Montana during the early 1700's provided a much more efficient method of hunting the buffalo, and the old communal system was soon abandoned.

An ethnographic account records a Buffalo Jump near Choteau, which is about twenty miles north of the survey area. This jump was employed around the 1850's (Ewers, 1958:83).

Stone Circles, which are found throughout the survey area, may date back to the LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD, but they probably overlap in the HISTORIC PERIOD, defined by the presence of European contact material at a site (Mulloy, 1958:163). No actual set date of the first 'tipi rings' were found through this research. They have occurred prior to these periods; however, they are generally thought to be temporarily associated with the Buffalo Jumps. In relation to spatial distribution, Wedel (1948:48) states:

They occur in limited numbers in northern Colorado and extreme western Nebraska, and more frequently in the Dakotas eastward approximately to the Missouri from Fort Randall northward, but the greatest number of such sites seem to lie in Wyoming, Montana, and northward. It is possible that they correlate with a relatively late hunting occupation.

Kehoe (1954:871) states: "The size of the circles vary between seven feet and thirty feet in diameter." He is referring to 'tipi rings'. 'Tipi rings' through the ethnographic account, were smaller before the advent of the horse (Kehoe, 1954). The reason given is related to the load that could be transported from site to site. The larger the 'tipi ring' the greater the number of hides used, which added to the weight. The use of the horse made the load that could be transported larger.

Stone Circles are defined by exactly what the name implies: rocks which are arranged in a circular formation. This excludes rocks aligned around a hearth. Malouf (1961:388) placed the variety of stone circles into four categories: (1) stone circles, which are normally called 'tipi rings', when the evidence suggests the circle was connected with a conical, skin covered dwelling; (2) circular wall, when the evidence suggests the rocks were piled up on

one another to form a wall; (3) ceremonial rings, when the internal features are of an extraordinary size, large or small; (4) medicine wheels, when the evidence supports stone circles which have rock lines internally like spokes in a wheel.

Evidence of categories 1, 2, and 3 are found in the survey area. There is a medicine wheel east of the survey area, approximately twenty miles. It's called the Sun River Medicine Wheel (Newcomb, 1967).

Mulloy (1958:211) feels that the stone circles referred to as 'tipi rings' are part of a complex which had a ceremonial rather than a practical function. Evidence of scarcity of artifacts found at the sites support this line of thought.

Kehoe (1958:423) omits all of Malouf's categories except the first one, 'tipi rings'. He states:

Sufficient information exists in historical and ethnographic records, it is believed, to reveal their function, if not their ethnic origin.

He concludes that they were used to hold down the sides of skin tents.

Hoffman (1953:2) believes that they represent the site of the recent conical skin lodge or a crude hogan of earlier times. In connection with a ceremonial or religious function, he mentions their use as a 'medicine getting' ritual based on the statements of an informant.

The author agrees with Hoffman's (1953:2) summarization of the literature on stone circles, stating:

These points can lead us to only one definite conclusion: the nature and use of 'tipi rings' is highly conjectual.

If the stone circles could be typed to their ethnic origin, the survey area could reveal much information. This area appears to have been occupied by several bands of aboriginal people. Malouf (1967:3) places a branch of the

Upper Pend d'Oreille Indians, the Tunaxa, in this area during the first half of the 19th century. The Shochoni may have been in this area also. Sacajawea of the Lewis and Clark Expedition expected to find her people, the Shoshoni, at Great Falls on the Missouri River, which is sixty miles east of the survey area.

This area may have been used by many Montana tribes, because of its location and the following list of factors: (1) war parties moving through the territories of their adversaires; (2) friendly tribes combining for protection or for other social activities; (3) tribal boundaries overlapping (such as western tribes moving over the mountains for the purpose of securing buffalo for their winter meat); (4) individual Indians or small parties making trips to other areas for trading purposes (Malouf, 1967). These factors make it difficult to pinpoint definite ethnic groups occupying the survey area.

Briefly discussing the site density of the survey area, there should be evidence of use of this area by many aboriginals. Evidence of early people in this area comes from the statements of Bud Bisnett. Historical tribes of Montana probably used the mountain passes in this area. The farther east or west one goes, the site densities should be less. The survey area is at the crossroads, opening out onto the upland plains. The area near the Sun River may be utilized more because it flows out onto the plains.

The archaeological record of this area is traced mainly through a few recorded sites in the mountains and sites following the Sun River. More surveys and excavations will be needed to tie down a better cultural chronology and in understanding the cultural processes in the area.

Looking at the European contact in this area, it is assumed that the area was utilized by fur trappers during the 19th century, since they were south and north of this area.

Three historical sites were recorded in the survey area. Dick Kenck, whose family was homesteaders, indicated that these sites were built around 1914. The Augusta area was bombarded with homesteaders at this time because of the need for wheat by the U. S. Government. Kenck said a drought hit the area in 1918, bankrupting many homesteaders, who subsequently left the area. He recalled the first homesteaders in the Augusta area arriving in the 1880's. Sheep and cattle ranches made it into the area also. Archaeological evidence of the sheep being in the survey area at one time is observed through the rock piles called 'sheep-herders monuments'. These are piles of rock that the shepherd compiled while watching over his flock. They are found on small hilltops on the upland plains. They posed no problems in differentiation from drive lanes.

The historical record will be more complete with further research and surveys, showing a record in both spatial and time dimensions.

RESEARCH GOALS AND STRATEGY

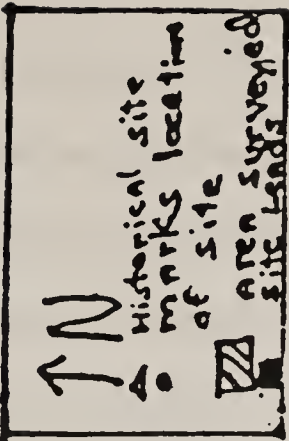
The objective of this survey was to record the sites in a given area. The purpose can generally be described as informational and descriptive as opposed to interpretive. Through the survey one may add to the interpretation of the cultural chronology and cultural processes, but only through more surveys and excavation will these goals be achieved.

The BLM's East Slope Planning Unit is quite large, consequently, the goal was to intensively survey as much of the area as the eight-week time period allowed. Future surveys will be necessary to complete the unit. The method of survey was to begin at the northwestern boundary of the area moving east and south until that township was completed. The Sun River was the northern and eastern boundary. Only land pertaining to the BLM was surveyed which included private land if it looked productive (see map #2). Completing this township in five weeks, the survey moved to the southeast area in the next township at the request of my supervisor, Darrell McDaniel. This area surrounds the Willow Creek Reservoir (map #2). It is heavily visited by fishermen, and parts of the land are being sold in lots by a land developer. This area is becoming more developed by the human activity. That's why it was to be surveyed now before more disturbance occurred.

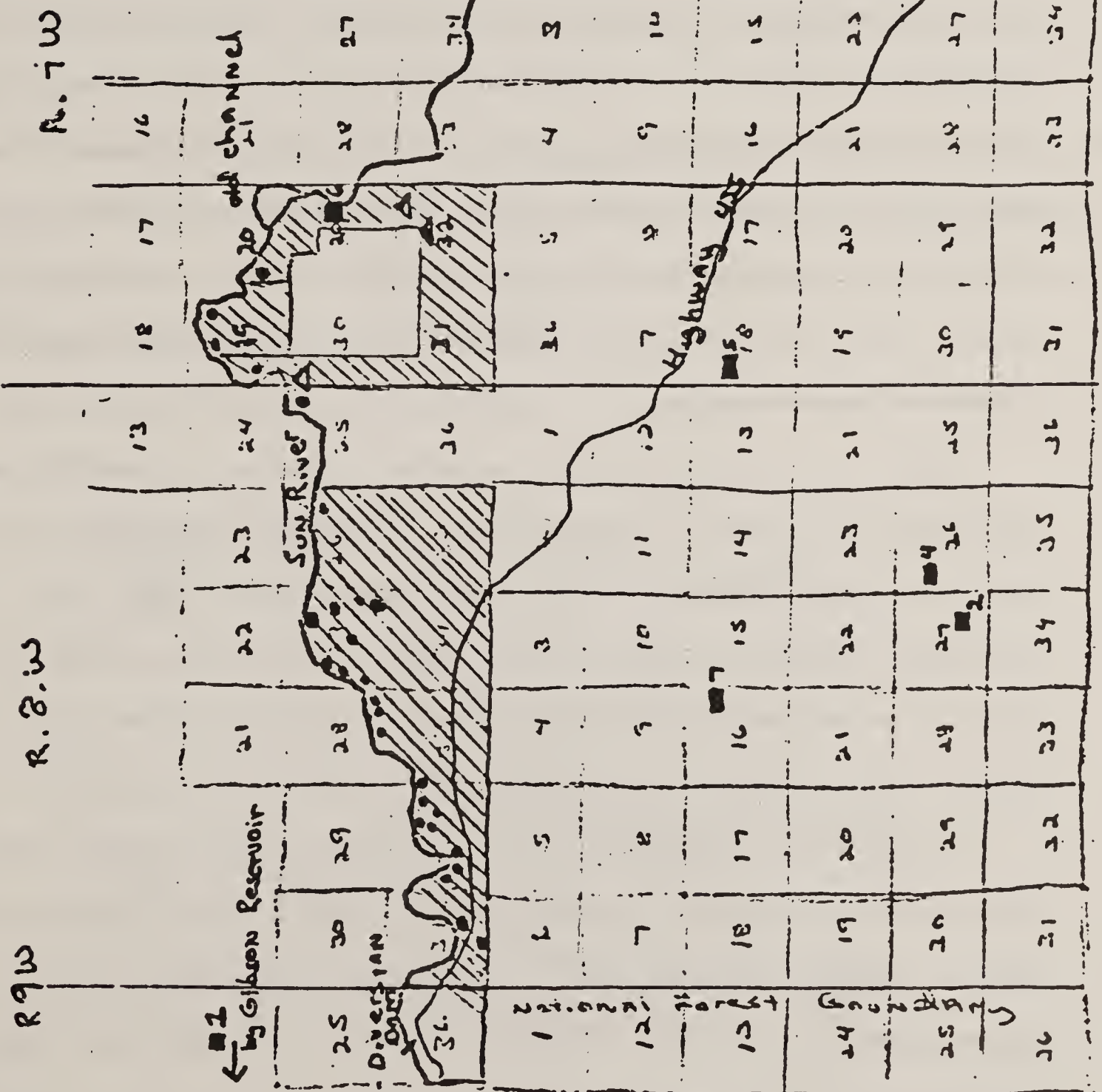
A site is defined as any visible remains of human occupation or human utilization of the area (i.e. drive lanes).

At the beginning of the survey, ranchers and local people familiar with the area were interviewed. They were very helpful. Several sites were identified this way. If they were in the designated survey area, they were checked. Time did not permit the checking of site leads outside the area, but they are included in this inventory. Time was scheduled in an attempt to cover a section

Legend



R 6 W T 22 N



Map # 2

of land in two days. If the land was relatively flat, this goal was achieved. The survey was conducted by walking over the land following an imaginary straight line. When the boundary of the land was reached, another line approximately 50 to 100 feet to the side was followed in the opposite direction setting up a series of parallel lines. Steep slopes were excluded from the survey. At the end of each day, notes were written in a journal describing that day's activity. Inadequacies with this method of survey deal with two factors. Since the Sun River was designated as a boundary marker, the way the channel presently flows is the boundary marker. Any subsequent studies in the area should first determine if the channel is the same as at present. The channel may change, thus excluding or including new area in this boundary. This is exactly what happened in Township 22N, Range 7W, Section 20 (see map #2). This was a result of the 1975 flood. The other factor results from the action of following an imaginary straight line and then moving over 100 feet. This may result in not locating sites in that 100-foot area. However, the method of survey employed should give a representative sample.

Once a site is walked upon, the area is covered intensively until the cultural material ceases to reveal itself. Thus, the area of the site is recorded. Due to the site reckoning system used, site distances would vary. At times, sites were extremely close. When a group of stone circles were found, a typical ring was mapped and described more precisely than the other stone circles. The diameter was recorded from the exterior perimeter of the circle.

All sites were recorded on BLM Antiquities Site Inventory forms (6230-2). They were also recorded on aerial photos. Both pieces of information are on file at the BLM office at Butte. Duplicate copies are on file at the Department of Anthropology, Missoula. The sites have all been numbered, using the Smithsonian Institution Numbering System.

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

Data from the 1976 summer survey will be presented in this section. First, a legal description of the lands adequately surveyed, then a description of the 36 sites recorded. They will be organized and presented by the area in which they are located. The northwestern sites will be described first and then proceed to the more southeastern sites. A site's location in legal format will be given, then a description of the site. The description is compiled from the site form and observations made in the field. Suggestions will be made about the nature of the site, using the description of the site and the literature on the archaeology in this region. Site recommendations will be made. Recommendations regarding stone circles will be stated at the end of the inventory section (page 71). Archaeological sites are a non-renewable resource, thus the policy will be to recommend further work if the site has a possibility of yielding more information. Leads on sites received but not checked, will be described next. Historical sites will be described last.

By legal description, the land that has been adequately surveyed is as follows (1).

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Section</u>
22N	8W	26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35
22N	7W	S $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 31
		S $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 31
		NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 31
		S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 31
		E $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 32
		SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32
		S $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32
		19, 20, W $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 30, E $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 29
		NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 29
21N	7W	N $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 26
		SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 26
		(all of the following sections except that inundated by Willow Creek Reservoir):

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Section</u>
		23, 24, 25, 13 & 14
		SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 11
		SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 11
		E $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 11
		W $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 12
		NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 12
21N	6W	(all of Sec. 19 and 30 except that inundated by Willow Creek Reservoir and the E $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 19) SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 18 SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 18 SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 18

(1) The Sun River is still the northern boundary. Thus, when it is started that Sec. 26, T22N, R8W is adequately surveyed, it is meant that all the land south of the Sun River is surveyed.

Big Tipi Site (24LC181)

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 31, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The Big Tipi Site is located on open flat terrain less than a mile east of where the Sun River flows out of the mountains (Photo 5). The view is for more than one mile in all directions except to the south. Rolling foothills with dense pine trees are less than 200 yards to the south. The site is at an elevation of 4,450 feet. The Sun River comes within a 1/4 mile of the site. There is easy access to the mountains, and there is access to the plains farther east.

The Big Tipi Site is a stone circle with two lesser structures near it. One structure is composed of 26 rocks in a four-foot area. This pile of rocks is fifteen feet south of the circle. The other structure resembles part of a circle (see diagram). It's composed of 27 rocks, and ~~it's~~ twenty feet southeast of the pile of rocks. The stone circle has a north-south diameter of 22.5 feet. Its east-west diameter is 21.5 feet. It's composed of 101 rocks, whose diameters range from four to eight inches across. The scarcity of rocks at the

southern end suggests a possible opening. A brown chert flake was observed in the southern part of the circle.

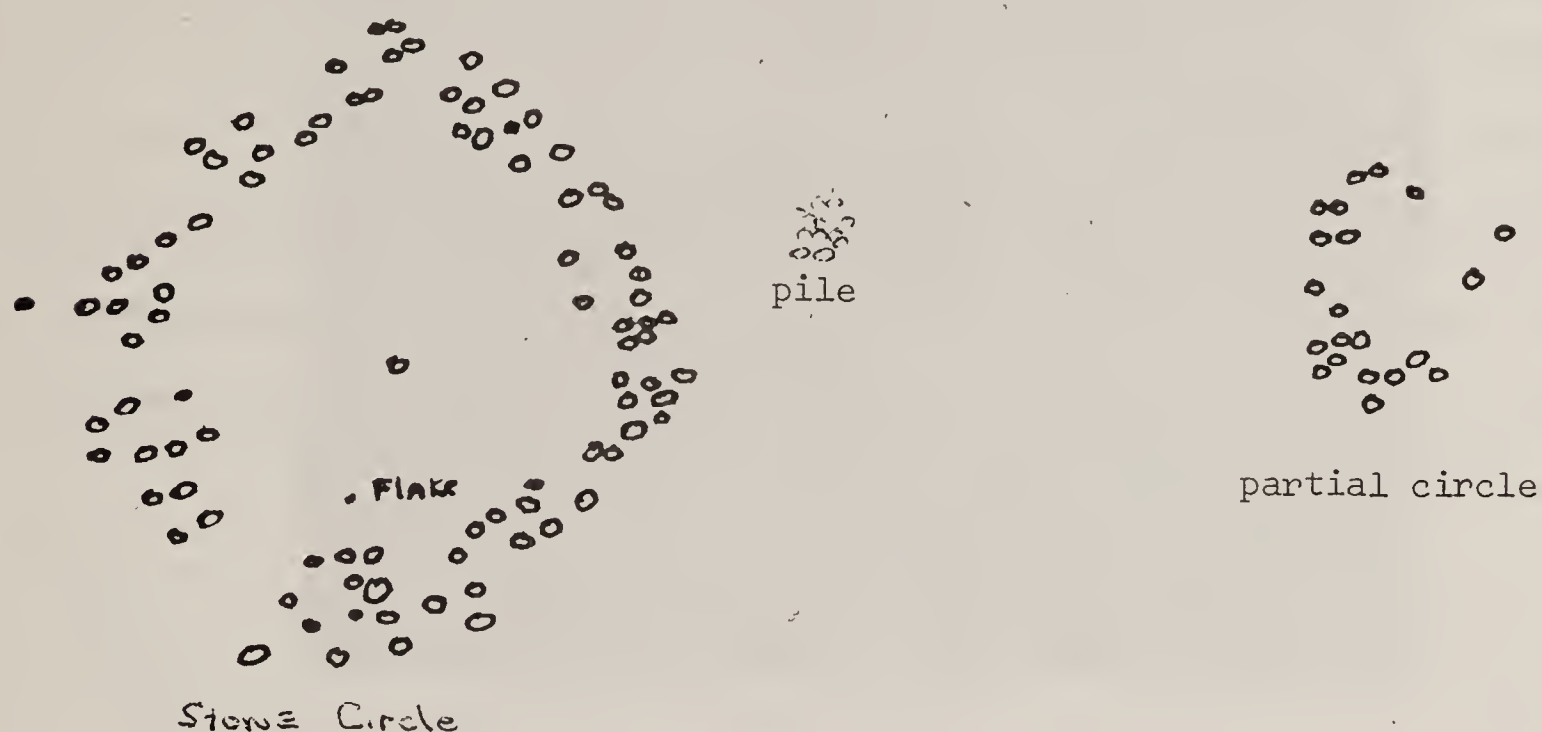


DIAGRAM 1



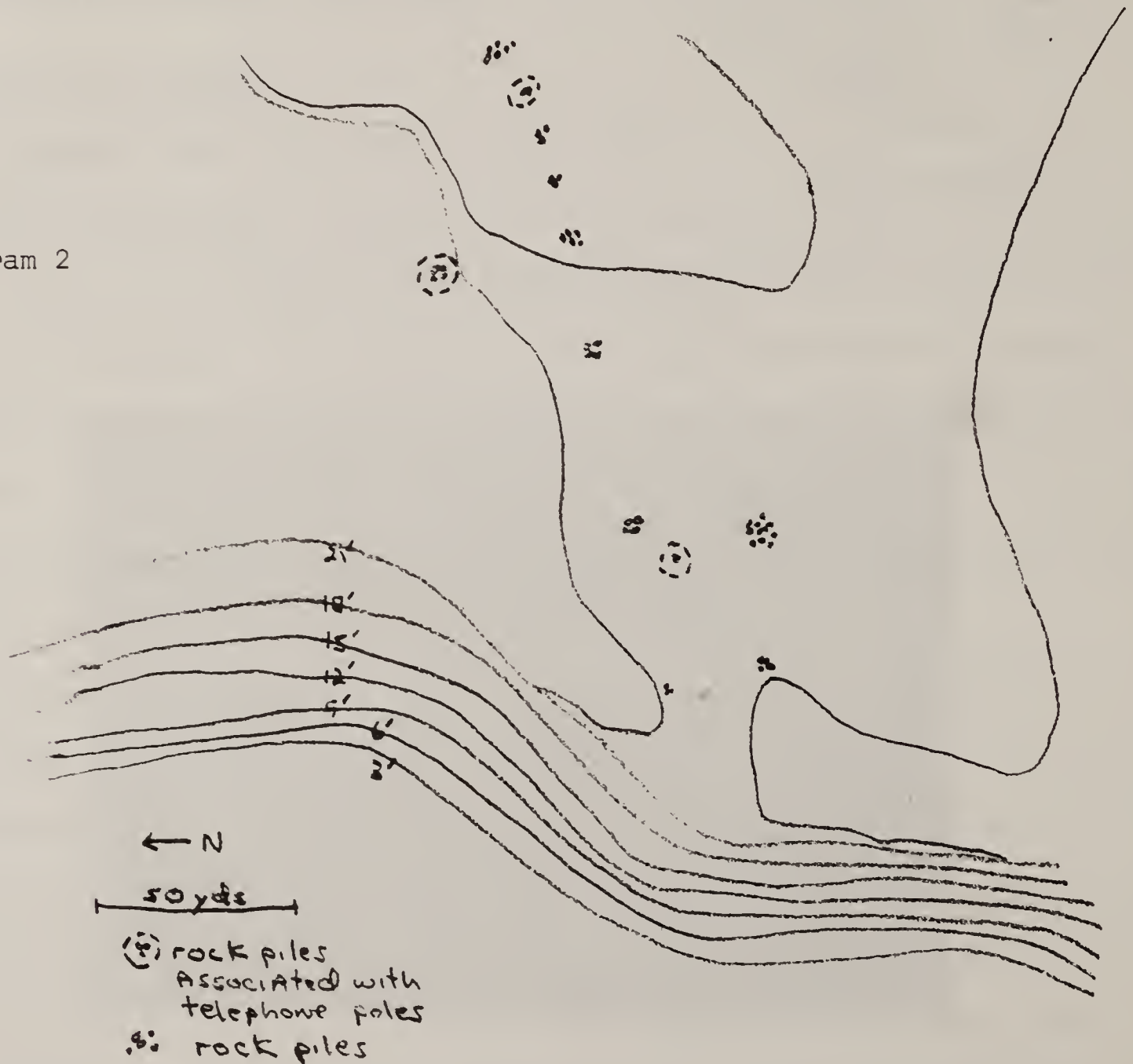
The picture is looking west. The stone circle is in the foreground. In the background in the forested area is where the Sun River flows out of the mountains.

Uneven Pile Site (24LC173)

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 31, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The Uneven Pile Site is a drive lane that is located at the western edge of a broad grassy plain. It's a mile east of a pass through the overthrust belt. The plain is over a mile wide, opening into a much larger plain east of here. The line of rocks is composed of eight piles. They are spread out over 200 yards from the edge of the plain (Photo 6). At the edge of the plain the land drops about 21 feet (diagram 2). No evidence of a bison kill was found at the base of the hill. The drive lane is the only evidence suggesting a bison kill. Other drive lanes in the survey area are also composed of just one line of rocks. The success of the site is not known.

Diagram 2





The picture is looking west. The site is in the foreground.

Sites 24LC174, 24LC175, 24LC176

Area Description. The sites are lumped together because of their proximity and similarity. All three sites are within 220 yards of a draw that leads to the Sun River, which is 2000 feet north of the sites. The elevation is 4,430 feet. The view at the sites is more than one mile in any direction. Pine trees dot the edges of the draw.

Site 24LC174, Neals Site

Location. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T22N, R8W

Site Description. This site is 50 yards west of the draw on an open grassy windy plain. It is composed of one stone circle (Photo 7). The north-south diameter is 19 feet, and the east-west diameter is 23 feet. The circle is made up of 85 rocks. No artifacts were observed.



The picture is looking east. The trees are located in the draw that separates 24LC 174 and 24LC175.

Site 24LC175, Garbage Dump Site

Location. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is east of the draw about 20 feet (Photo 8). It is between pine trees. This suggests the use of the trees as a wind break. The soil content is a gravely mixture, suggesting the trees have not been in this area long. The site is composed of two stone circles. The north-south diameter of one stone circle, structure 1 (diagram 3), is 17.5 feet, and its east-west diameter is 19.6 feet. The other stone circle has a north-south diameter of 18.6 feet and an east-west diameter of 19 feet. The number of rocks in structure 1 is 104. There may be a possible hearth six feet west of structure 1. It is composed of a few rocks in a ring covering an area of two feet. No artifacts were observed. There is a modern garbage dump ten feet east of the site, suggesting possible disturbance.

Site 24LC176, Another Ring Site

Location. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is east of the draw about 150 yards. It is composed of seven stone circles. The diameters range from 15 to 22 feet. Rocks making up each ring total from 40 to 64 rocks (Photo 9). No artifacts were observed.

Photo 8



The picture is looking east. The garbage dump is located 10 feet east of the site among the trees.

Photo 9



This picture is looking north. Another Ring Site is in the foreground.



Diagram 3

10 feet

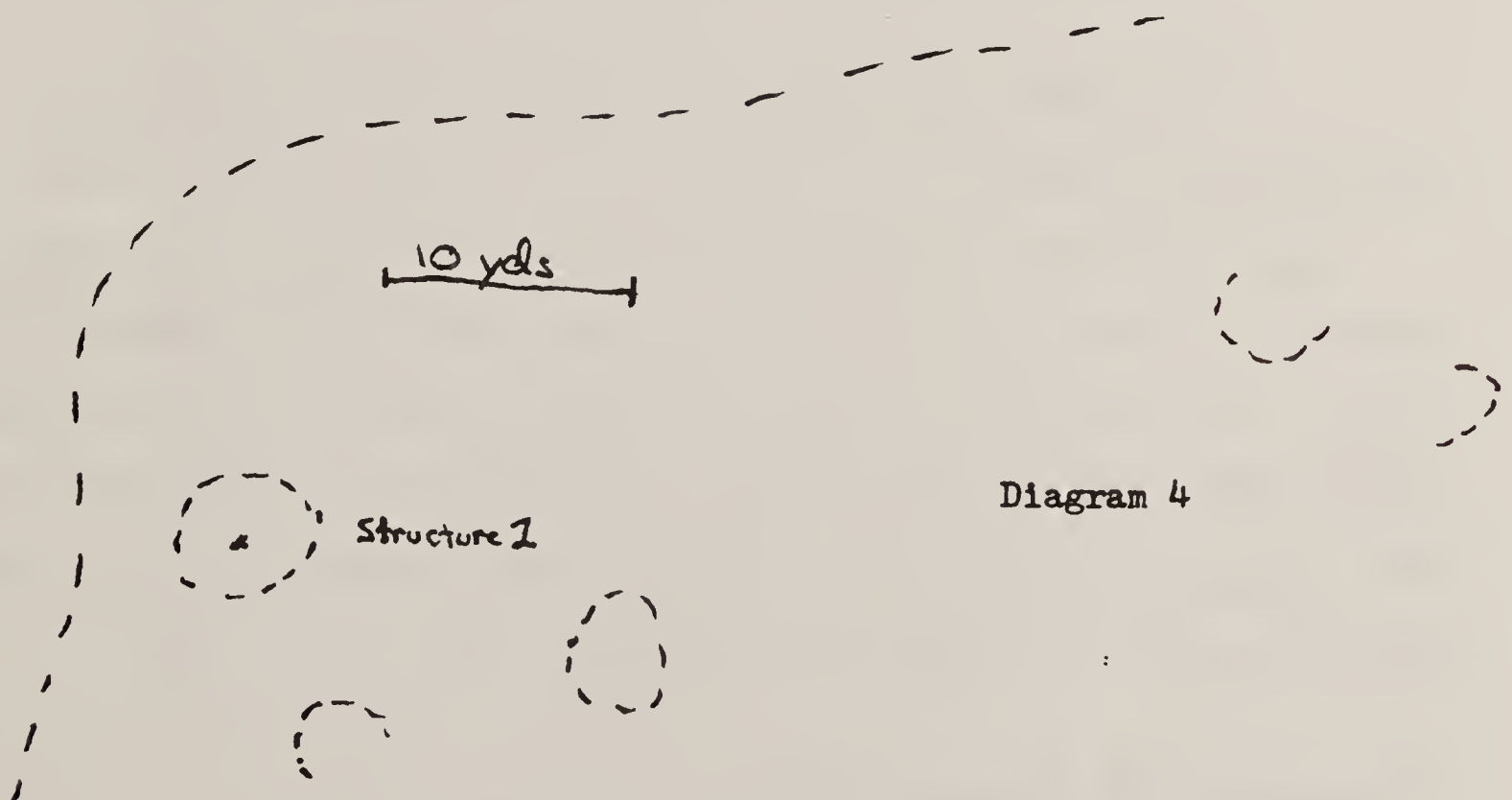
Structure 1

High Noon Site, 24LC177

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is composed of four stone circles. High Noon Site is located on a dry, grassy plain. The view is more than a mile in any direction. Elevation is 4,430 feet. The Sun River is a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north and west of the site. The area of the site is 125 yards square.

Only two of the circles at the site are complete (Photo 10). The partial circles appear to be a "U" shape (diagram 4) The average diameters of the complete circles are 15 feet. Structure 1 (see diagram 4) is composed of 42 rocks. There are a group of rocks near the center of it that suggest the possibility of a hearth. No artifacts were observed. A jeep trail is near the site. There may be the possibility of disturbance at the site.





The picture is looking west. A stone circle is in the foreground.

Sites 24LC178, 24LC179

Area Description. These sites are described together because they are located on two terraces next to the Sun River, and they are composed of stone circles. Site 24LC178 is on the lower terrace, while site 24LC179 is on a higher terrace 100 yards to the east. Elevation is 4,400 feet. These terraces offer natural concealment from the western plain in the area. Each terrace is about 50 yards wide and over 300 yards long.

Site 24LC178, First Terrace Site

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T22N, R8W

Site Description. First Terrace Site is composed of six stone circles (Photo 11). The average diameter of the circles is 22 feet. Some of the circles

are not complete. No artifacts were observed. The site covers an area of 25 square yards.

Photo 11



The picture is looking north, down onto First Terrace Site. The Sun River is in the background. Stone circles are in the foreground.

Site 24LC179, Second Terrace Site

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T22N, R8W

Site Description. Second Terrace Site is composed of seven stone circles (Photo 12). There are partial rings in the area also. The site covers an area of 75 square yards. The average diameter of the circles is 23 feet. This might suggest that it is more recent in age than a lot of the stone circles in the survey area. No artifacts were observed. There is a modern campfire at the site, which suggests disturbance at the site.



Photo 12

The picture is looking west. The site is in the foreground.

Cow Skull Site, 24LC180

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is located on a large grassy plain (Photo 13). Elevation is 4,420 feet. The Sun River is 1,200 feet north of the site. It appears to be the closest source of water. The view is more than a mile in any direction. The total area of the site is 50 by 35 feet.

The site is made up of two stone circles. Each circle's north-south diameter is 21.5 feet and 16.8 feet, and their east-west diameter is 20 feet and 18 feet, respectively. The number of rocks in each ring is 37 and 45 rocks, respectively. There are rocks in the middle of each circle which suggest the possibility of a hearth. No artifacts were observed.

Early Mourning Site, 24LC182

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 32, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The Early Mourning Site is located on a ridge that follows the Sun River. The Sun River is 200 yards north of the site. South and east of the site is a broad, grassy plain. The view is more than two miles in all directions. Elevation is 4,420 feet.

The site is composed of one stone circle (Photo 14). There may have been circles 40 yards east of the site, but the remains show only a concentration of scattered rocks. The stone circle has a north-south diameter of 21 feet and an east-west diameter of 21 feet. No artifacts were observed. A jeep trail is two feet north of the site, suggesting a possibility of disturbance.

Photo 13



The picture is looking south. Old Cow Skull Site is in the foreground.

Long Day Site, 24LC183

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The Long Day Site is located on a terrace along a bend on the Sun River. The terrace is 100 yards wide and 200 yards long (diagram 5). The terrace offers concealment to the plains on the south side of the Sun River. There is easy access to the north shore of the Sun River. The elevation is 4,340 feet.

Photo 14



The picture is looking northwest. The stone circle is in the foreground. Sun River is at the top.

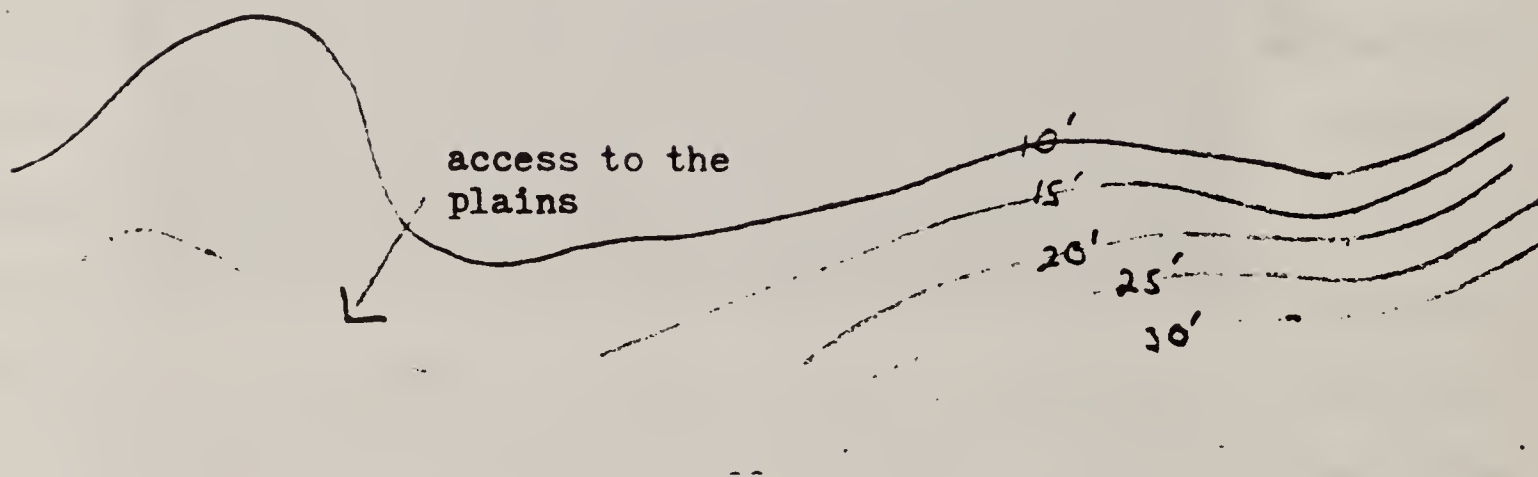
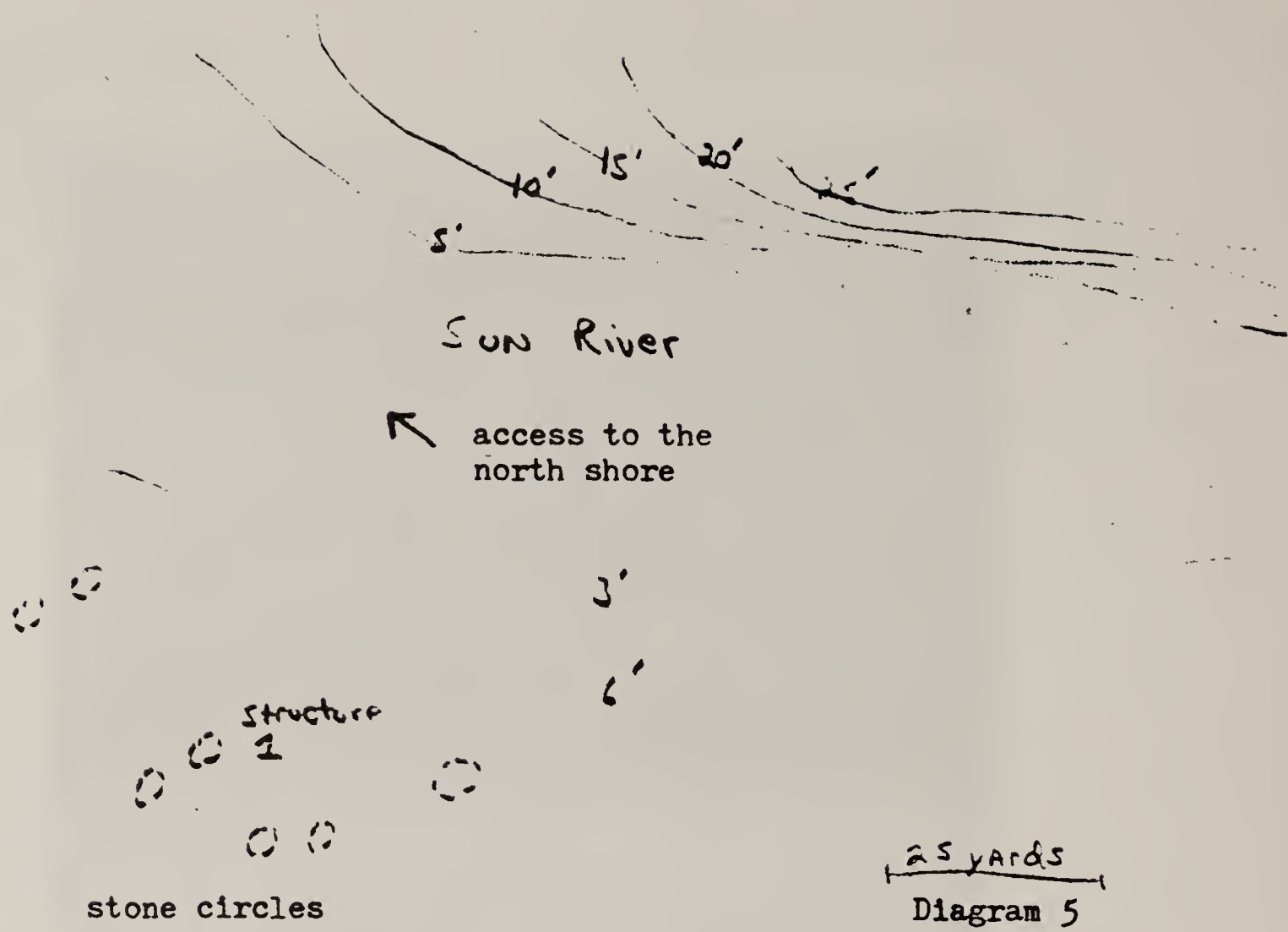
Photo 15



The picture is looking north. The site is down on the terrace.

Long Day Site is composed of nine stone circles (Photo 15). There are rocks scattered in concentrations, suggesting possible disturbed stone circles.

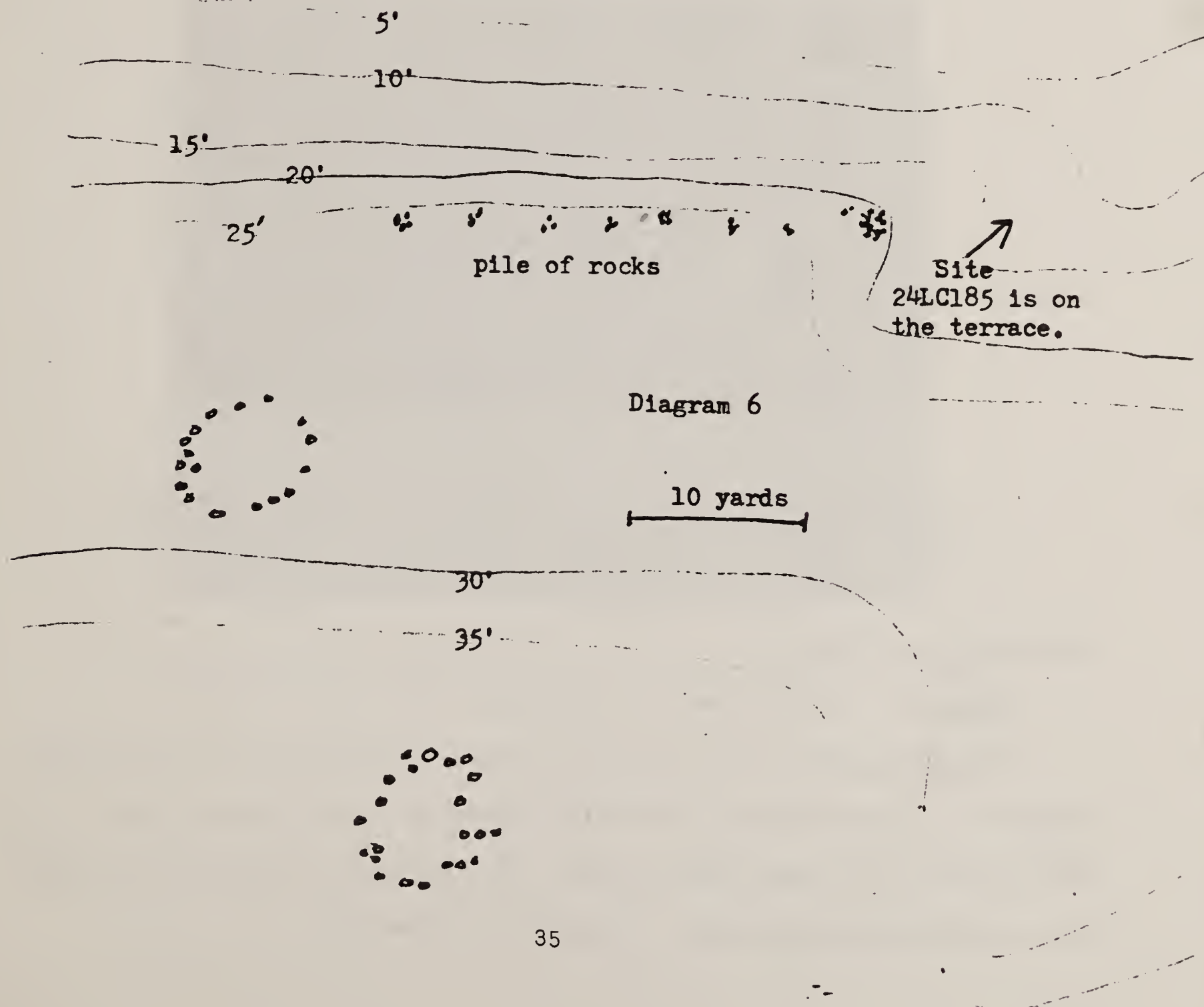
Structure 1 (see diagram 5) is composed of 38 rocks. Its north-south diameter is 12 feet. Its east-west diameter is 15 feet. Few rocks in the southeast part of the ring suggest an opening. There is a concentration of rocks a few feet north of the circle. It might suggest a possible hearth. No artifacts were observed.



Aching Sunburn Site, 24LC184

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28, T22N, R8W

Site Description. This site is along the edge of the open, grassy plains next to the Sun River (Photo 16). There is easy access to the river from a terrace that is twenty yards east of the site. This is also where Site 24LC185 is located. Aching Sun Burn Site has a view that is limited to 100 yards in any direction, since it is in a shallow depression on the plains. Elevation is 4,360 feet.



The site is composed of two stone circles and a line of rocks running 50 feet along the edge of the plains (diagram 6). The line of rocks resemble a drive lane. The stone circles are composed of about 80 rocks each. Their average north-south diameter is 17.6 feet, and their east-west diameter is 20 feet.

Photo 16



The picture is looking north. A ring is in the foreground, while the line of rocks runs across the picture in the background. The Sun River may be seen in the background.

Obsidian Site, 24LC185

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is on a broad terrace next to the Sun River (Photo 17). South and east of the site there is a broad, grassy plain. Also Site 24LC186 is 75 yards east of here. The site offers protection from the wind and provides concealment. Elevation is 4,340 feet.

The site is composed of five stone circles, and it may contain more. There is an area at the site that had a concentration of scattered rocks (diagram 7). Structure 1 (diagram 7) has a north-south diameter of 17 feet. Its east-west diameter is 17.6 feet. It is composed of 61 rocks.

Two small obsidian flakes were observed in the area. Also a quartz flake was observed inside one of the stone circles. The obsidian tends either to be a trade item, or the party that brought it here traveled a long way, possibly from Yellowstone. No tools were observed.

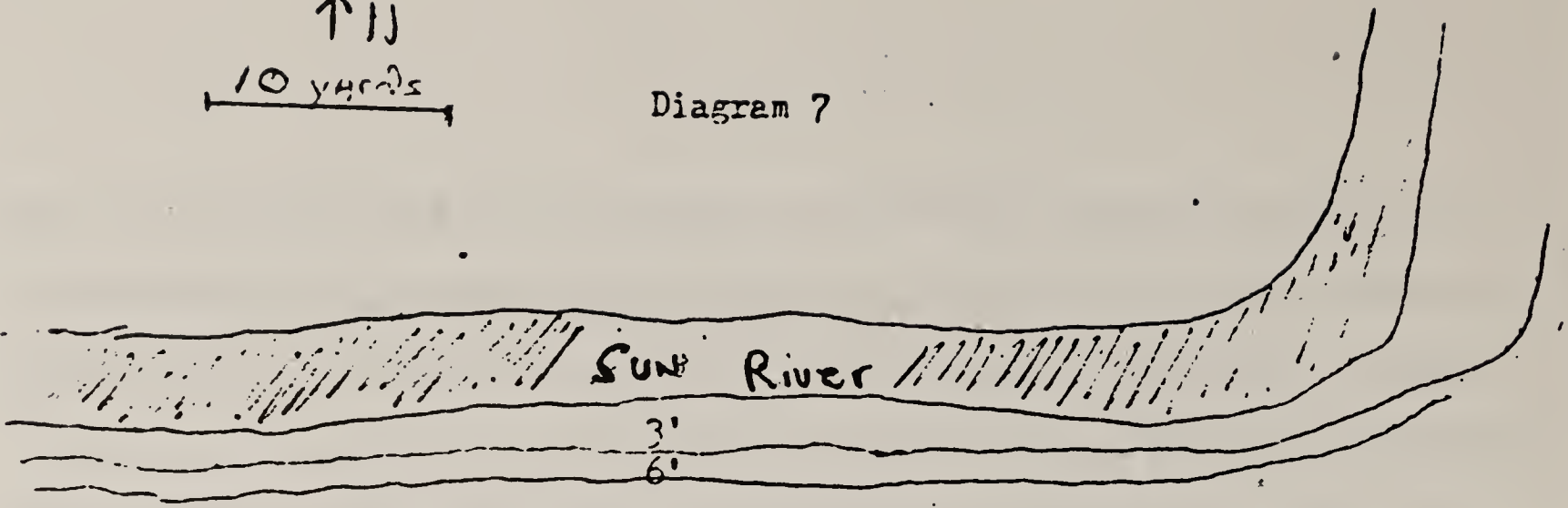
Photo 17



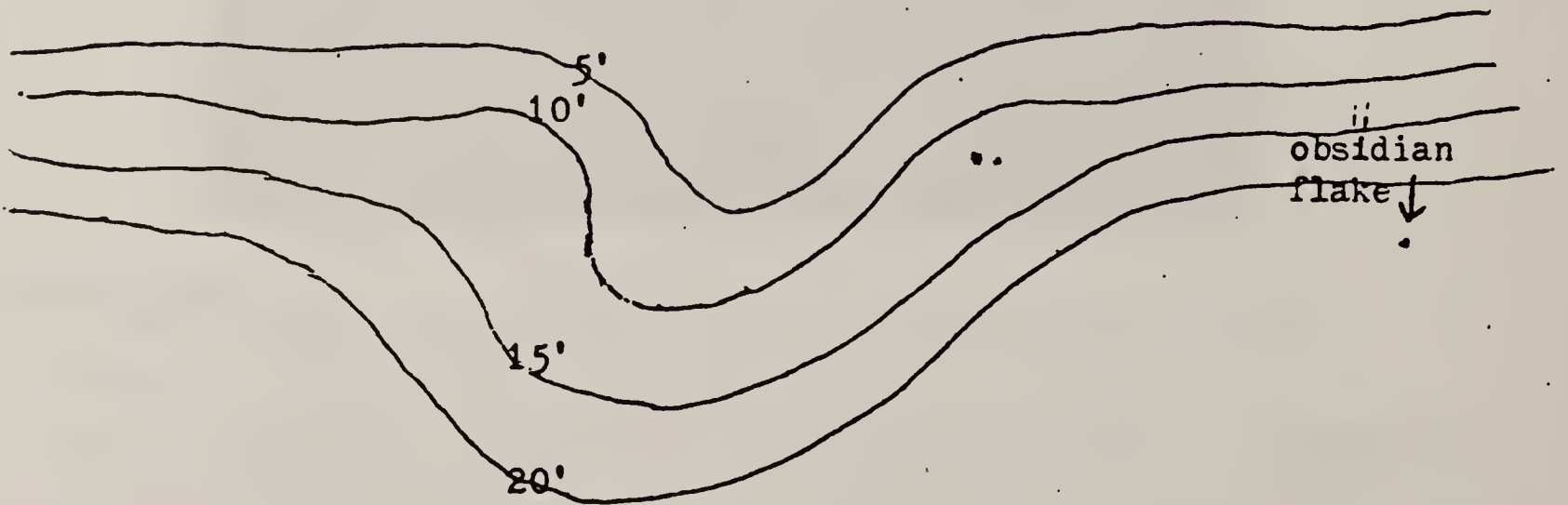
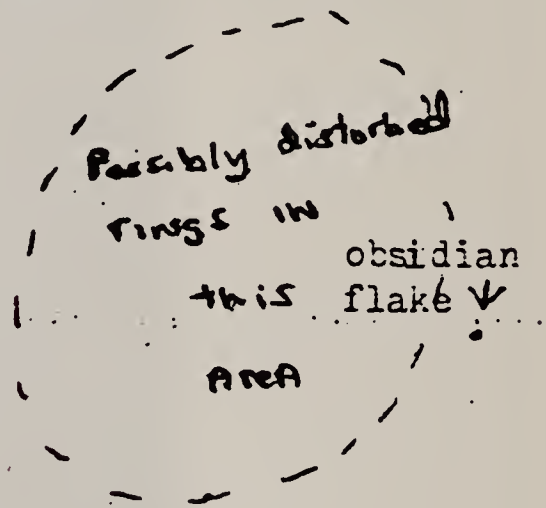
The picture is looking northeast. The site is on the terrace between the pine trees.

↑ 11
10 yards

Diagram 7



Structure 1



The Lane Site, 24LC186

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is located on a wide bluff east of the Sun River. The terrain is level. The site covers an area of 100 yards by 200 yards (diagram 8). The view is limited to less than 200 yards in any direction, because the site is in a shallow depression. To the south and east of the site is a broad plain. Pine trees dot the northern perimeter of the site. Pine trees also grow along the edge of the Sun River. This site offers concealment. The elevation is 4,300 feet.

The site is composed of stone circles and a drive lane. This suggests two different occupations. The largest diameter of a stone circle in the survey area is recorded at this site. The north-south diameter of the circle is 27.6 feet, and its east-west diameter is 27 feet. The other circles' diameters range from 15 feet to 22 feet. The large stone circle is alone on the open plain, while the other stone circles are in a concentration along the edge of the Sun River. The drive lane is about 50 yards long, heading southwest to the bluff along the Sun River. The bluff drops about 40 feet. The Sun River is at the base of the bluff now. No other evidence associated with a Bison Kill Site was observed. The drive lane offers the explanation for the line of rocks, but there might be an explanation associated with the stone circles. There is a jeep trail traversing through the center of the site. This might suggest the site has been disturbed.



The picture is looking to the south. The stone circle is in the foreground. Saw Tooth Mountain, part of the overthrust belt, is in the background.

No House Site, 24LC187

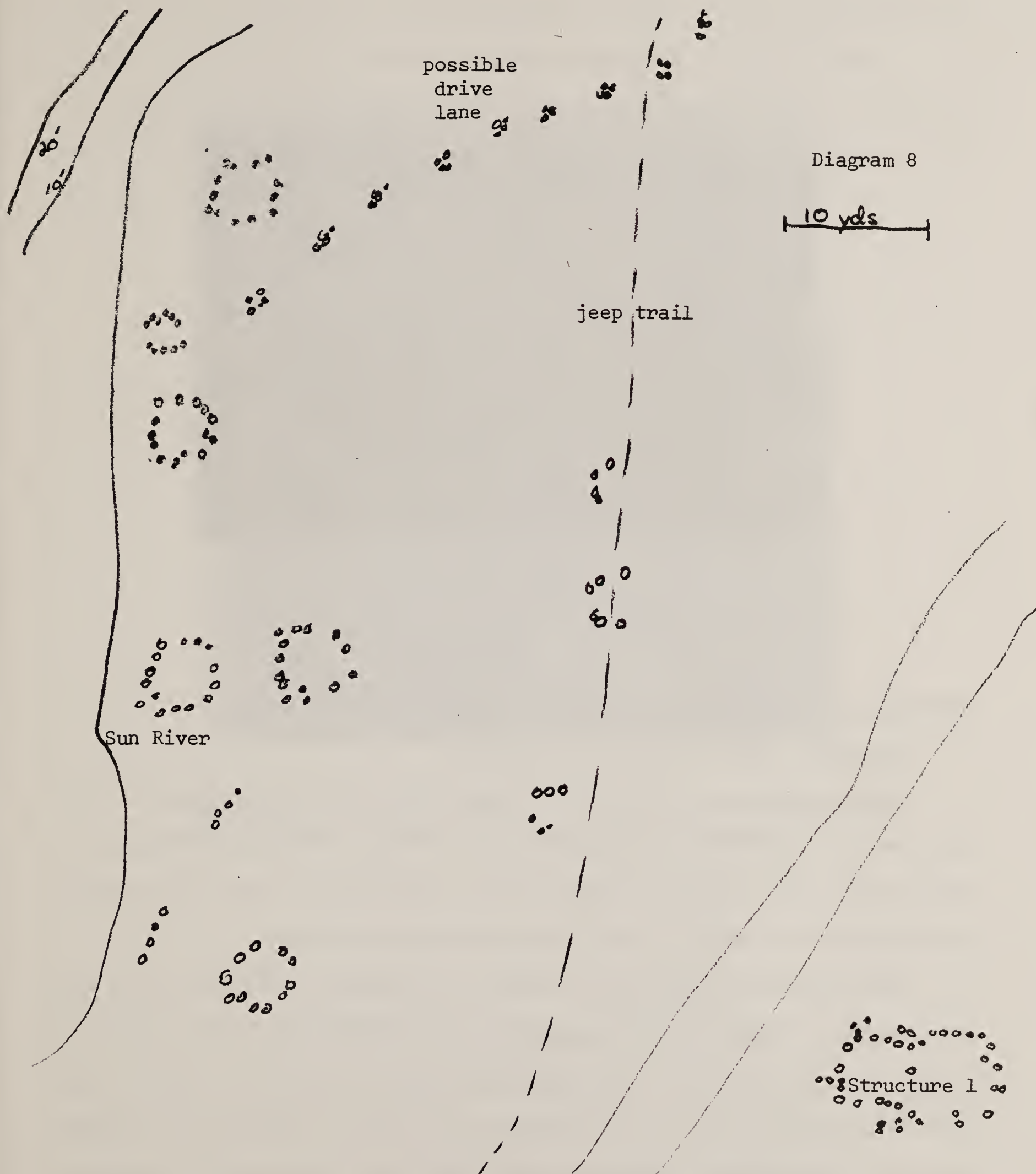
Location. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T22N, R8W

Site Description. No House Site is surrounded by sparse growth of pine trees (Photo 19). View is limited to less than 100 yards, because it is in a shallow, wide depression. Elevation is 4,300 feet. The site offers concealment. There is easy access to the Sun River 200 yards north of the site. 100 yards west of the site the Sun River is more than 60 feet below the ridge.

The site is composed of one stone circle. It has a north-south diameter of 18 feet. Its east-west diameter is 20 feet. 95 rocks make up the circle. There are a few rocks in the center, suggesting a possible hearth.

There are concentrations of rocks in the area, suggesting possible stone

circles. A fence line is near the stone circle. Thus, the circle may have been disturbed.





The picture is looking to the east. The stone circle is in the foreground.

Amazing Site, 24LC188

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T22N, R8W

Site Description. This site is located about 200 yards south of the Sun River on a broad plain. Its elevation is 4,300 feet. There are a few pine trees in the area, but for the most part the vegetation is just local grasses with prickly pear cactus. View is more than a mile anywhere.

The uniqueness of this site is that it is composed of a stone circle with what appears a drive lane starting from it and heading south. The lane ends at a pond about 1/2 mile away. Its north-south diameter is 21 feet, and its east-west diameter is 21 feet. It is composed of 75 rocks. The drive lane appears to start at the circle's southeast corner (Photo 21). It runs in a southeast direction for 100 yards. It then joins another drive lane that runs from the

ridge of the Sun River to a pond (diagram 9). Around the pond are many drive lanes. The pond will be discussed in the description of Site 24LC190.

Because of the two components, this site may have been used at different times. The line of rocks may not be a part of a drive lane, although it may have some connection with the stone circle.

Photo 20

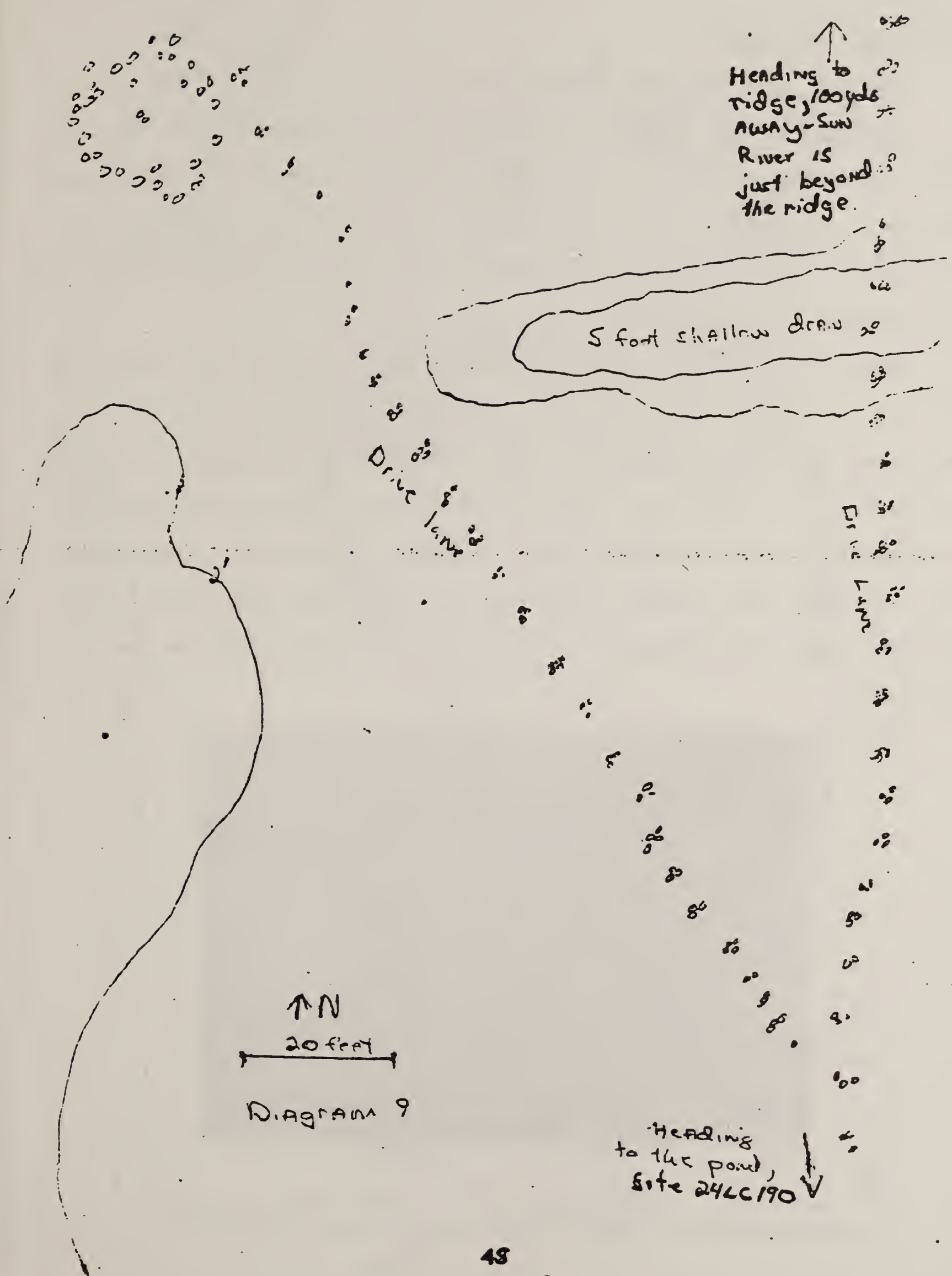


The picture is looking down at the stone circle. Notice how hard it is to see the rocks, showing the disposition.

Photo 21



The picture is looking south at the drive lane. The tree in the far left hand corner is where the stone circle is.



↑ N
20 feet
Diagram 9

Heading to the point,
Site 24LC190 ↓

On and On Site, 24LC189

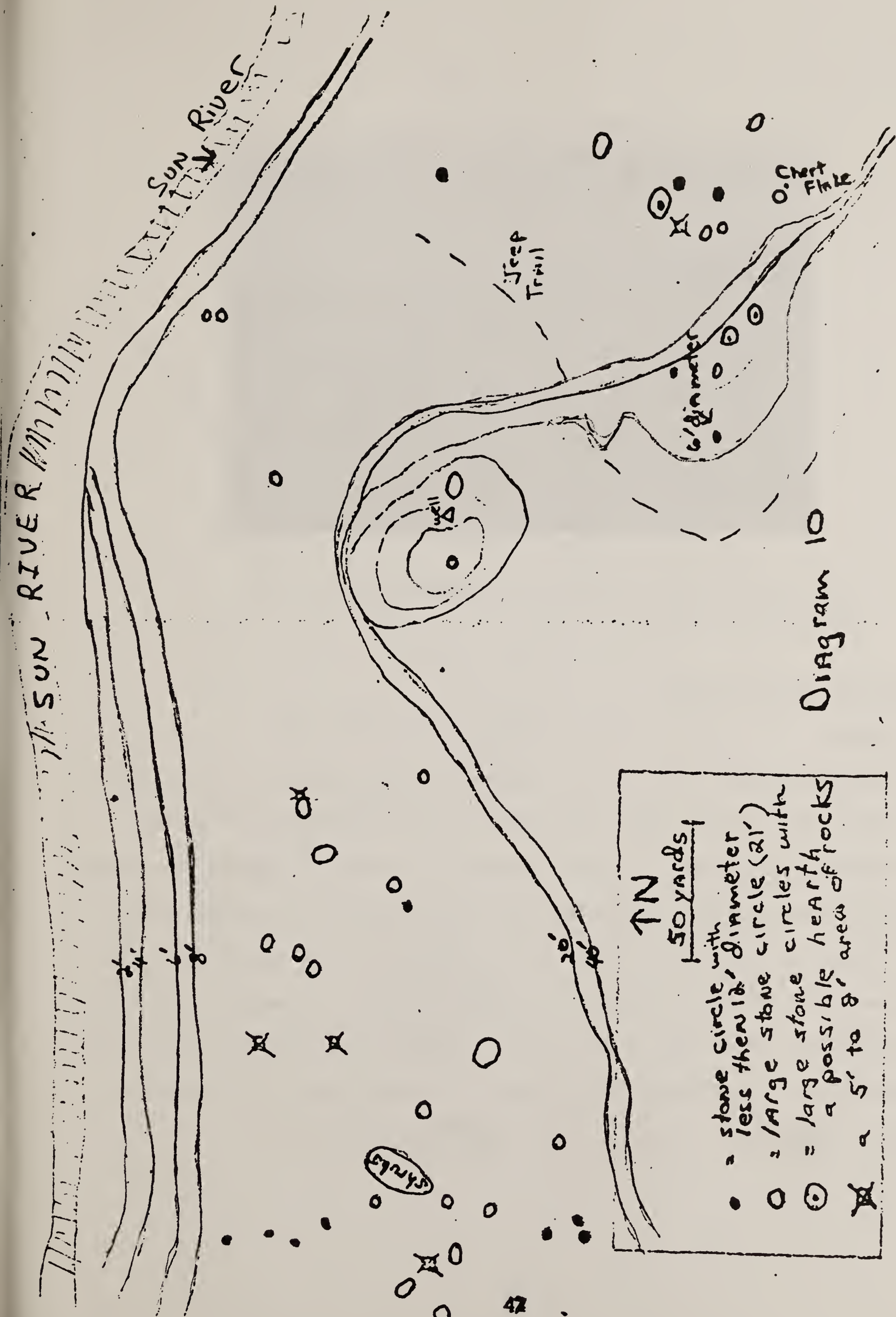
Location. S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is located on a terrace next to the Sun River. It covers an area of 1/4 mile by 220 yards (Photo 23). The site is the largest recorded this summer. There is easy access to the north shore anywhere along the channel. The site offers concealment from the plains south of the Sun River. The elevation is 4,280 feet.

There are 42 circles at the site (Diagram 10). Diameter sizes range from six feet to 21 feet. This may suggest different occupations or some circles may be used for different purposes. There were also concentrations of rocks by the stone circles (Photo 22). This was quite unusual, since there appears to be no mention of this situation in any literature. No artifacts were observed but a few flakes were spotted. Since there are many drive lanes south of the site (Site 24LC190), this may be a choice campsite for the people who employ drive lanes.



The picture is looking northwest. A stone circle is in the foreground and a stone concentration is located above it.



↑ N
50 yards

- = stone circle with less than 10' diameter
- = large stone circle (21')
- ⊙ = large stone circles with a possible hearth
- ⊗ = a 5' to 8' area of rocks

Diagram 10



The picture is looking west. The site extends to the sides of the hills.

Another Pile Site, 24LC190

Location. $S\frac{1}{2}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, $N\frac{1}{2}$, $NE\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 34, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is centered around a pond out on the plains, (Photo 24). The area the drive lanes cover is about 1/2 mile by 1/2 mile. The elevation is 4,300 feet. Since there are no cliffs in the area, the layout of the area suggests that the buffalo were driven down into the pond, where they probably became trapped (diagram 11). Then they were slaughtered. The drive lanes are the only evidence of a Bison Kill Site. Subsequent work in the pond may reveal the success of this site. Because of the numerous drive lanes, it suggests that the site was heavily used. Test excavation will reveal the success of this site.

↑ N
MAP is not accurate to
the number of piles
in a drive line.
300 feet

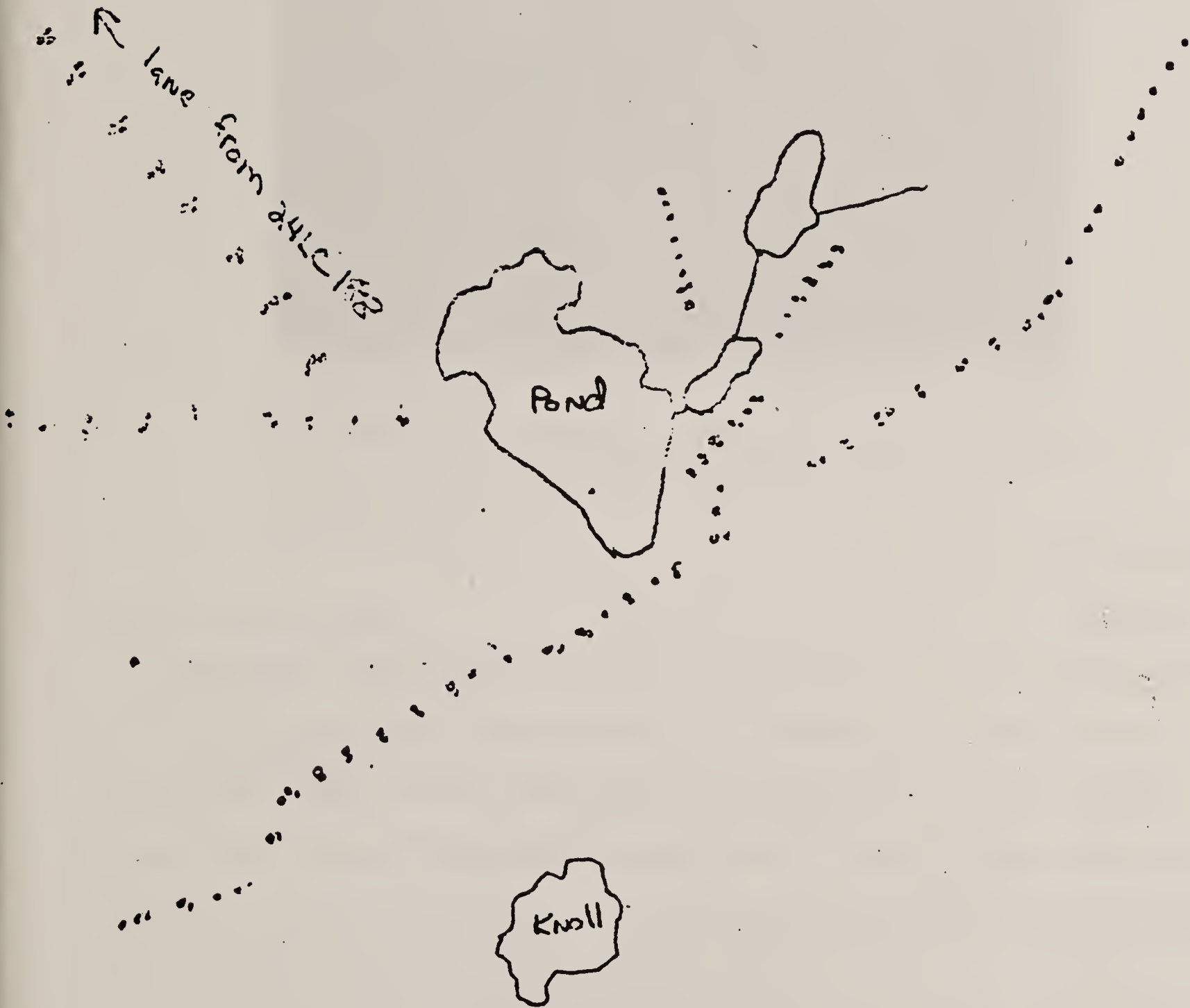


Diagram 11



The picture is looking south. The pond is in the center of the photo. Drive lanes surround the pond.

The Loner, 24LC192

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The Loner Site is located on a hill top that slopes north into Site 24LC189 (Photo 25). The view is good in all directions. The stone circle has a north-south diameter of 13 feet. Its east-west diameter is 12 feet. The ring is composed of 68 rocks. This site may be part of Site 24LC189 because of its proximity.



The picture is looking north. The stone circle is in the foreground. In the background is a hilltop; this is part of the southeastern portion of Site 24LC189 (see diagram 10).

A Tipi Site, 24LC193

Location. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is located on a ridge near the Sun River (Photo 26). North of the ridge lies a river terrace where Site 24LC189's eastern perimeter is. This might suggest that this site is part of Site 24LC189. 24LC193 is on the open grassy plain, however, It is unprotected from the wind. The elevation at the site is 4,300 feet.

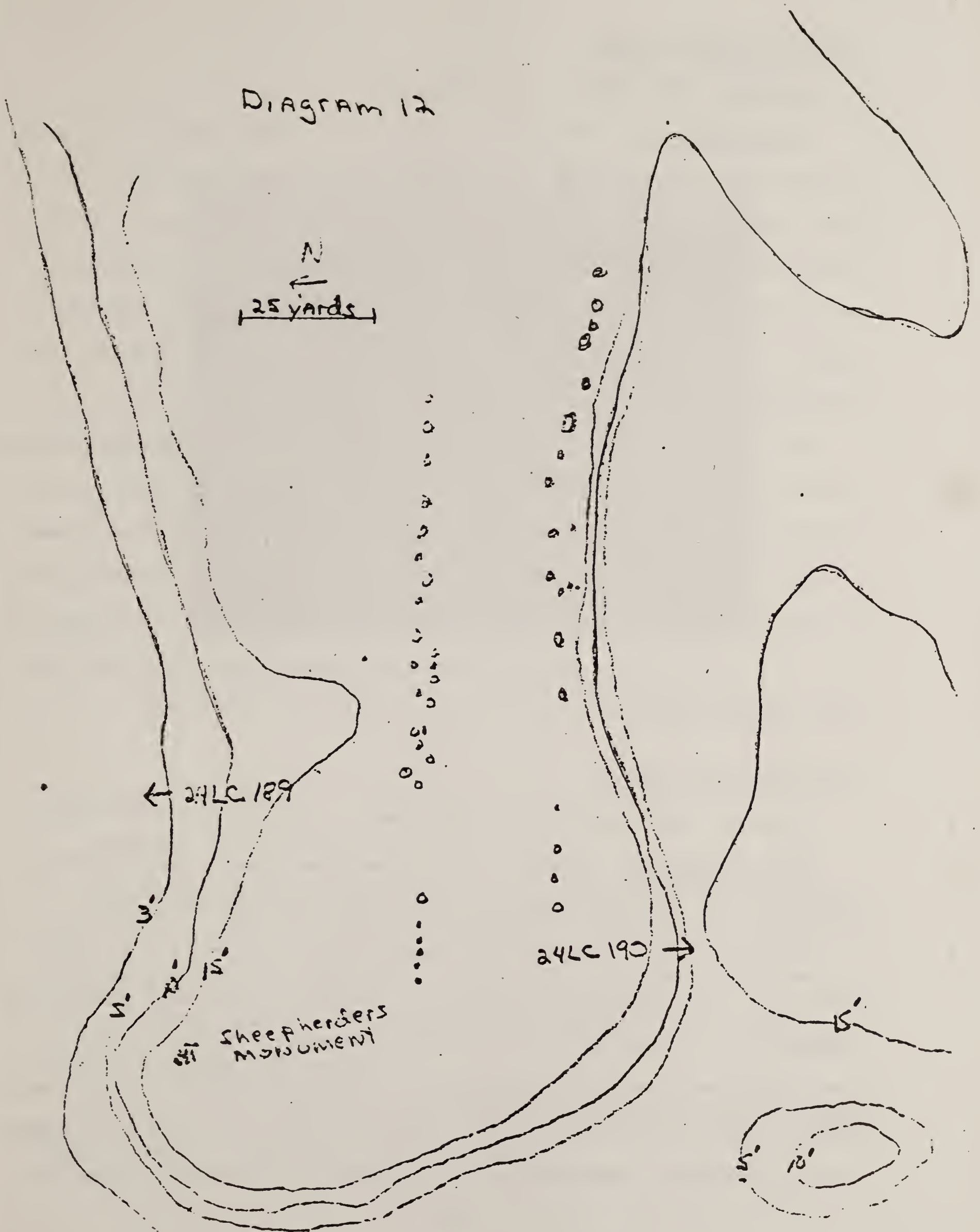
It is composed of three stone circles in an area of 60 yards by 25 yards. The average number of rocks that make up a circle is 71. Their diameters range from 12 feet to 15 feet. It may be part of the site at the terrace, but why would some of the rings be on the ridge?

Photo 26



This picture is looking to the northeast. A stone circle is in the foreground. The other stone circles are by the fencepost in the background. This is also where the ridge starts to slope north down onto the terrace.

Diagram 12



A Nice Lane Site, 24LC191

Location. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T22N, R8W

Site Description. There are two lanes of rock piles that run parallel on a narrow plain (diagram 12). On the north side the plain slopes down onto a river terrace where Site 24LC189 is located. On the south side, the plain slopes down onto a lower plain where a pond is located. This is also where many drive lanes are that seem to be associated with the ponds. This might suggest that this site is just a component of the larger site, 24LC190. The hill drops gently for 15 feet at the end of the drive lane.

Part of the lane seems to have been used to build a shepherders monument. This pile of rocks is 25 yards north of the lane. It is a much larger pile than any pile in the lanes. The lane may have been employed to drive a herd down the plain. Once the herd went down the slope the natural terrain guided the herd to the pond. The evidence is very scant that it was a drive lane at all. It is close to the large site of stone circles. Thus, it may have some other significance.

Some Water Site, 24LC194

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 26, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is on a broad level plain. To the east the terrain rises. There are mountains in this area left from the glacier.

Some Water Site is composed of six stone circles and two drive lanes (Photo 27). The elevation is 4,300 feet. The site may have been employed two different times because of the two different features. The possibility of them being constructed at the same time is a suggestion, because of the observations made at Site 24LC188. The two drive lanes run in a north-south fashion. The stone rings are inbetween them. The diameters of the circles range from

16 to 18 feet.

Photo 27



The picture is looking east. A stone circle is in the foreground. In the background the terrain steadily rises.

Fishin Hole Site, 24LC195

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 26, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is composed of five stone circles. It is next to the Sun River on a terrace. Elevation is 4,240 feet. There are no trees and access to the north shore is easy. The site offers concealment. There are modern campfires twenty yards east of the site. This suggests possible disturbance of the site.

The stone circles have an average diameter of fifteen feet. The average number of rocks in each ring is fifty (Photo 28).

Photo 28



The picture is looking north. A stone circle is in the photo's center. The Sun River is in the background.

Red Tail Site, 24LC196

Location. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 20, T22N, R7W

Site Description. The site is composed of a stone circle and two drive lanes (Photo 29). The Red Tail Site is located on a grassy plain that has hills intermittently throughout the area. The stone circle is on top of a hill associated with a large pile of rocks (Photo 29). The drive lanes remain a mystery. They appear to come down off the hill out onto the plain (diagram 13). These rock piles do not resemble piles of rocks picked up to clear a field for farming. They appear to be the same size and shape as other drive lanes in the survey area.

The stone circle has a north-south diameter of 26 feet. Its east-west diameter is 23 feet. The large pile of rocks is five feet in diameter (Photo 30). Similar piles were noted at the large site of stone circles, Site 24LC189.

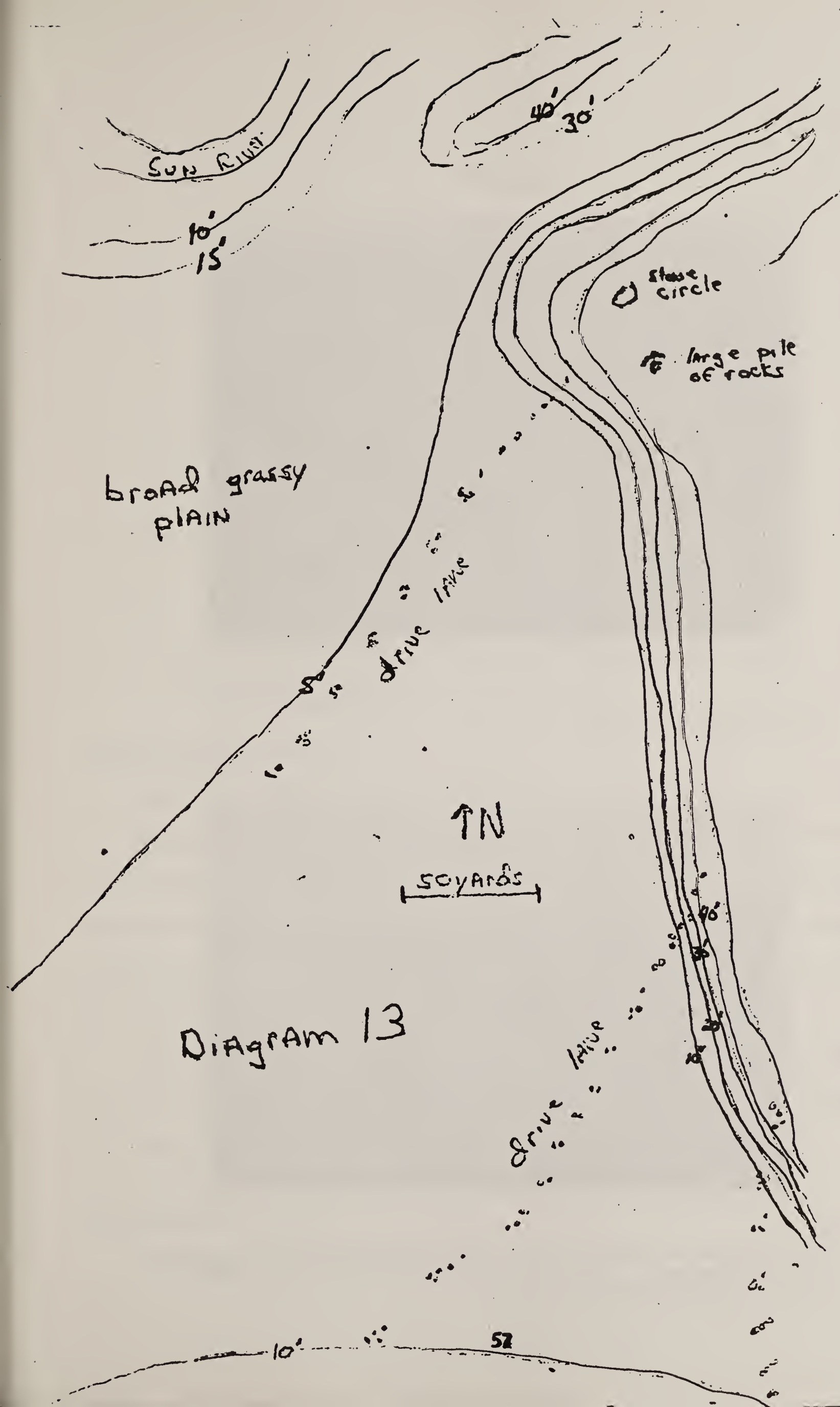


Diagram 13

Photo 29



The picture is looking northeast. In the foreground are the piles of rocks.



The picture is looking north. The large pile of rocks is in the foreground. The stone circle is by the lone shrub in the center of the background.

Photo 31



The picture is looking northeast. The two stone circles are in the foreground.

Soaken Wet Site, 24LC198

Location. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 19, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is composed of two stone circles (Photo 31). It is located on a ridge south of the Sun River. The view is more than two miles in any direction except to the west, where there is a higher ridge that follows the Sun River. The elevation is 4,300 feet. There is easy access to the Sun River by walking north for 150 feet.

The north-south diameters of the two stone circles are, respectively, 22 and 21 feet. Their east-west diameters are, respectively, 18 and 16 feet. The circles are composed of about 86 rocks.

Mean Cow Site, 24LC199

Location. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 19, T22N, R7W

Site Description. The site is composed of one stone circle (Photo 32). It is located on a terrace near a bend in the Sun River. The elevation is 4,200 feet. The view is limited to 400 yards in any direction. The site is at a point where there is easy access to the other shore. Most places along the river in this area have steep banks. This may be a reason why the site is located here.

The circle has a north-south diameter of 12 feet. Its east-west diameter is 14 feet. The circle has 64 rocks in it. Its size suggests that it might be before the horse. There are other reasons, however, for a stone circle being small.



The picture is looking northwest. The stone circle is in the foreground. The picture shows the easy access route to the north shore.

The Last One Site, 24LC200

Location. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 19, T22N R7W

Site Description. The site is composed of four stone circles (Photo 33).

The site is located on a terrace next to the Sun River. The elevation is 4,200 feet. Because it is on a terrace, the view is limited to 200 yards. This site is 300 yards east of Site 24LC199. The deposition at the site is a lot, but the reason may be that it is also located on a flood plain.

The four stone circles' diameters range from 15 to 27 feet. Each circle is composed of about 77 rocks.

Photo 33



The picture is looking northeast. The site is in the foreground. Notice the high banks of the Sun River in the background. This is why it is important to find an easy access route to the other side.

Photo 34



The picture is looking to the northeast. There is a stone circle in the foreground. The Sun River is in the background. The bluff on the other side is typical of the terrain surrounding the site.

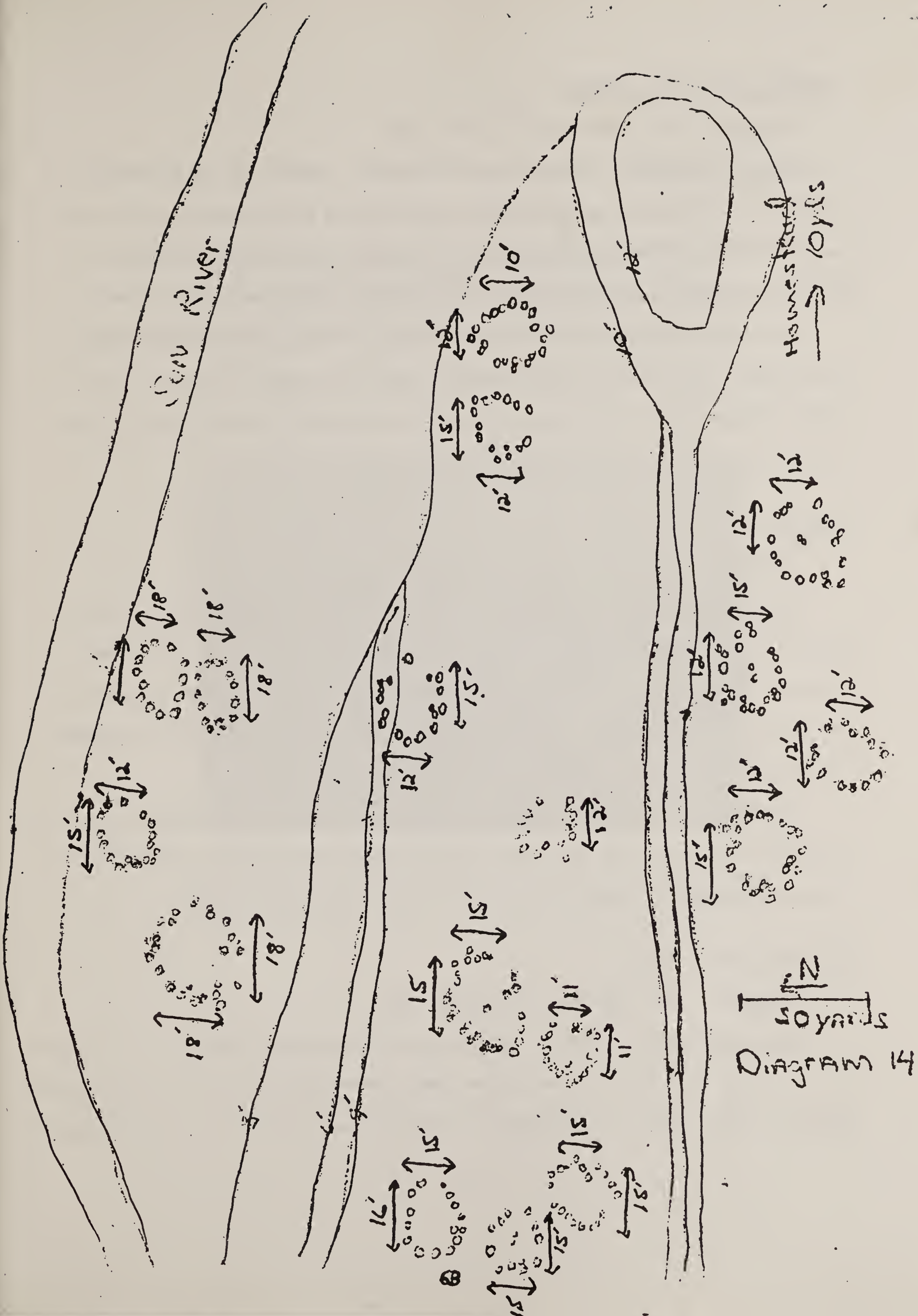


Diagram 14

Swimming Hole Site, 24LC204

25

Location. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 85, T22N, R8W

Site Description. The site is located on a terrace by the Sun River (Photo 34). Elevation is 4,260 feet. The site is well concealed in all directions. Site 24LC197H, a homestead, is ten yards east of the perimeter of the site. This suggests possible disturbance of the Swimming Hole Site.

This site is composed of 17 stone circles. The diameters range from 12 to 18 feet. No artifacts were observed. The site covers an area of 90 by 70 yards (diagram 14). This site was one of the larger concentrations of stone circles found in the survey area.

Reservoir Site, 24LC207

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 26, T21N, R7W

Site Description. The site is composed of three stone circles which are about 1/2 mile south of the Willow Creek Reservoir. It is on a wind blown surface (Photo 35). The elevation is 4,200 feet. It is in a small pocket on the plain. View is more than a mile if the thirty foot high hill is climbed. In the pocket, view is only to the west and south of the area.

Diameters of the stone circles range from 16 to 24 feet. There are a few rocks in the interior of the stone circle, suggesting a hearth. Each circle is composed of about 97 rocks.

Sun Rise Site, 24LC208

Location. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 30, T21N, R6W

Site Description. The site is composed of one stone circle. It is located less than 1/4 mile east of the Willow Creek Reservoir (Photo 36). The elevation is 4,160 feet. There is a drainage thirty feet east of the site, but it was dry

at the time of the survey. View is limited to less than 1/2 mile, because the terrain rises in the form of rolling hills in all directions.

The stone circle is composed of 53 rocks. Its north-south diameter is 17 feet, and its east-west diameter is 16 feet. There is a jeep trail fifty feet north of the site, which may suggest disturbance at the site.

Photo 35



The picture is looking northeast. There is a stone circle in the foreground. Notice the fencepost. This may suggest disturbance at the site.

Photo 36



The picture is looking to the northwest. The hill in the center represents the eastern edge of the Willow Creek Reservoir.

Pothunted Site, 24LC209

Location, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 30, T21N, R6W

Site Description. The site is composed of ten stone circles. It is situated on a terrace along Willow Creek (Photo 37). It is well concealed, since the land rises fifty feet out onto a hilly plain. The elevation is 4,080 feet.

Nine of the ten stone circles have a sunken three-foot wide hole in the center. It could be fill, suggesting this site has been pot hunted. The area of the site encompasses an area 50 by 100 yards. The diameters of the circles range from 12 to 21 feet (Photo 38).

Calving Cow Site, 24LC210

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 30, T21N, R6W

Site Description. The site is located on the second highest terrace next to Willow Creek (Photo 39). The elevation is 4,180 feet. View is limited to the creek bottom. The site is composed of three stone circles. The area of the site is 45 by 45 feet. The circles' diameters are about 15 feet. No artifacts were observed. It is in a well-protected area, concealed and protected from the wind.

Photo 37



The picture is looking west. The site is in the photo's center; Willow Creek Reservoir is a mile west.

Photo 38



The picture is looking west. In the center of the stone circle, notice a pot hole.

Photo 39



The picture is looking northwest. The site is located on the terrace in the center of the photo.

Last Day Site, 24LC211

Location. E $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 12, T21N, R7W

Site Description. The site is made up of drive lanes. Their destination is hard to locate, but it appears to be associated with some ponds. They may also be associated with the bluffs less than a mile east of here, which is where the Risly Bison Kill is. The lanes are situated on rolling, smooth hills (Photo 40). The lanes run east-west for about 1/4 mile. The two lanes in relation to the terrain suggest a herding to the east with the lanes acting to narrow down the path. The elevation is 4,080 feet.

This area is being developed by land realtors. This is evident by a road running north through the drive lanes called Pishkun Lane. The lanes may have been used to gather the buffalo to start them on a path. Further work should be done to establish their end which may identify a kill site.

Photo 40



The picture is looking east. The drive lane is in the middle of the picture. Notice the rolling terrain.

SITE LEADS

Site 1

Location. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 36, T22N, R10W

Site Description. The site is located on a spring called Scattering Springs (map #2). The exact location could be supplied by Bud Bisnett, Augusta. He reported that the flood of 1964 left deposits of sediment up to six feet deep over the site. He reported that he has collected from the surface, projectile points resembling the McKean and Pelican Lake type (May 15, 1964), (Photo 4). Also, he has picked up a hammer stone from this site.

Site 2

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T27²¹N, R8W

Site Description. The site is located in the general area 3,000 feet south of the Sun River Game Preserve headquarters next to where Barr Creek crosses the road. Bud Bisnett has a projectile point that resembles a Clovis point (Photo 4). It was traded to him (1973) by a homesteader that said he picked it up on his spread (map #2, page 17). The details as to location can be supplied by Bud Bisnett. Mammoth bones have been found in this general region by Bert Goodman, Augusta.

Site 3

Location. Along the southwestern portion of the Willow Creek drainage system.

Site Description. Bud Bisnett reported that he has found surface finds of projectile points that resemble Duncan (1961), Hanna (1963), and Besant (1969) types at different locations in the area along Willow Creek (map #2, page 17).

The more detailed location of where the points came from can be supplied by Bud Bisnett, since he makes it a habit of writing down the location of where he collects the artifacts. This is why the information he supplied will be very helpful for future surveys in the region.

Site 4

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 26, T21N, R8W. It is located less than 1/4 mile west of a pond.

Site Description. Bert Goodman, Augusta, reports that the site is made up of stone circles. Particularly noteworthy is that one of the rings is said to have a pine tree growing in the center. A more descriptive location can be supplied by Bert Goodman (map #2, page 17).

Site 5

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 18, T21N, R7W

Site Description. Bert Goodman reports that there are some 'tipi rings' there, and also from flying over the area he reports that he has seen an "Indian trail" there that runs north. A more descriptive location can be supplied by Bert Goodman (map #2, page 17).

Site 6

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 29, T22N, R7W

Site Description. Mr. Morris, a rancher from Augusta, reports of a Bison Kill at the base of a 50-foot drop near the Sun River (map #2, page 17). Upon visiting this site, since it is in the survey area, no drive lanes or bones were observed. The terrain suggest a natural drive lane. The bluff is

located at the eastern end of the plains. Mr. Morris knows of the site because the base of the bluff is located on the edge of his hay meadow. The base is now planted with alfalfa. It appears that excavation is the only means of establishing the cultural remains. The area appears to be a good location for a Bison Kill.

Site 7

Location. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 16, T21N, R8W

Site Description. When Bert Goodman was hauling gravel out of the area, they uncovered a skull, which was sent to the Anthropology Department, University of Montana, Missoula. A more descriptive location of the site can be supplied by Bert Goodman (map #2, page 17).

Site 8

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 1, T21N, R7W

Site Description. Bud Bisnett reports of excavating a small area at this Bison Kill Site (map #2, page 17). The points he has collected in this area are in his collection. This site may have been recorded already and on file at the Statewide Archaeological Survey Archives, Missoula (F. Sharrock, personal communication. 1976).

RECOMMENDATIONS ON SITES CONTAINING STONE CIRCLES

Further research on the nature and function of stone circles will be required in order to evaluate the importance of these sites. It appears the sites on the open wind-blown plains are composed of fewer stone circles than those sites that are on river terraces. If the origin and time of occupation

of the builders of these stone circles could be determined, then this would add to the cultural chronology and cultural processes of this region.

HISTORICAL SITES

Site 24LC197H, Erickson's Homestead

Location. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 30, T22N, R7W (map #2, page 17).

Site Description. The homestead consists of a log cabin, which appears to have been kept up and is in use, a deteriorating shed and a deteriorating three-hole outhouse (photo 41). There is also scattered debris throughout the area.

Dick Kenck, Augusta, reports that it was built around WW I. In fact, he helped build the house.

Site 24LC205H, Pollack's Homestead

Location. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T22N, R7W (map #2, page 17).

Site Description. The site consists of one structure that is falling apart rapidly (Photo 42). Dick Kenck reports that it was built around WW I. Pollack died around the 1920's. Subsequently, his land was bought by Guildrich, a rancher in the area.

Photo 41



The picture is looking to the northwest. Notice the outhouse in the right hand corner. The cabin and shed are to the left.



The picture is looking to the south. The only structure found at the homestead is in the foreground.

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Site 24LC206H, Guildrich's Homestead

Location. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T22N, R7W (map #2, page 17)

Site Description. The site consists of a cabin, root cellar, four sheds, and numerous debris scattered throughout the area (Photo 43).

Dick Kenck reports that it was built around WW I. Then in the 1930's the land was bought by another rancher in the area.

Photo 43



The picture is looking southwest.

CONCLUSION AND INTERPRETIVE REMARKS OF THIS AREA

This survey was to record sites in a given area. It is intended to be descriptive rather than interpretive.

The East Slope Planning Unit is part of the Northwestern Plain tradition (Mulloy, 1958). There is evidence that supports a LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD utilization of this area. Bud Bisnett reports of projectile points and sites that fit into the EARLY and MIDDLE PERIODS.

The majority of the sites in the survey area are composed of stone circles. More studies will have to be completed on this subject before interpreting their importance in this region.

This survey was the first major survey in the region. Verifying site leads, future surveys, and excavation of sites will yield more information pertaining to the already growing data on the cultural processes and cultural chronology of this region.

This intern report was read and accepted by a staff member at:

Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Address: 1819 Holborn
Missoula, Montana 59801

This report was completed by a WICHE intern. This intern's project was part of the Resources Development Internship Program administered by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

The purpose of the internship program is to bring organizations involved in community and economic development, environmental problems and the humanities together with institutions of higher education and their students in the West for the benefit of all.

For these organizations, the intern program provides the problem-solving talents of student manpower while making the resources of universities and colleges more available. For institutions of higher education, the program provides relevant field education for their students while building their capacity for problem-solving.

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